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SOME

ACCOUNT

OF THE

LIFE AND WRITINGS

OF

MRS. TRIMMER,

WITH

ORIGINAL LETTERS,

AND

MEDITATIONS AND PRAYERS,

SELECTED FROM HER JOURNAL.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

204921
3.8.26

London:
PRINTED FOR F. C. AND J. RIVINGTON, AND J. JOHNSON
AND CO. ST. PAUL'S CHURCH-YARD; AND
J. HATCHARD, PICCADILLY;
By Law and Gilbert, St. John's-square, Clerkenwell.

1814.

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SOME ACCOUNT

OF

THE LIFE AND WRITINGS

OF

MRS. TRIMMER, *&c.*

JOURNAL

FOR THE

YEAR 1793.

Jan. 1. It has pleased the God of all power, goodness, and mercy to prolong my life, and bring me to the beginning of another year. That which is passed has been a year of sorrow, may this be one of comfort to me and mine!

O Lord, with a grateful heart, I desire to praise and bless thy holy name, for all the mercies bestowed upon me, and my dear family in the course of the last year; in the course of our earthly existence. O how numberless, how great, have been thy mercies towards us! thou hast seen fit to send a heavy affliction upon us; but how didst

thou support us under it! the loss of such a husband, and such a father could not have been borne, as we have borne it, without the aid of thy Holy Spirit, but that was graciously and mercifully bestowed. To the end of life, I think, I must feel the loss; to the end of life, I think, I must continue to love the late dear partner of all my earthly joys and sorrows. I cannot cease wishing again to meet him, and to pass an eternity together with him in thy heavenly kingdom: but, O gracious Father, I love him with no earthly affection; I conceive him to be a happy spirit purified from the defilement of sin by the blood of the Redeemer. I reflect upon the many virtues he practised while on earth; I wish to imitate those virtues, and to obtain the same reward as I trust he through the merits of a Saviour (giving efficacy to those virtues which no human being can practice to perfection) has obtained; I trust this love is subordinate, greatly subordinate to the love of thee, my God. Did I suppose it not so, I would strive to root it out. Kind as this dear husband was to me, much as I am indebted to him for an uncommon degree of love and tenderness, he should not rival *thee* in my affections; but he was a great benefactor, a faithful friend, he loved me, I truly believe, better than he did himself, I cannot forget his love.

Blessed Jesus, when Lazarus died, and thou didst behold the grief of his sorrowing sisters, the tear of sympathy fell from thine eyes; surely then

thou wilt not take offence at the tears and sorrows of an afflicted widow; surely thou wilt have compassion on me; thou wilt intercede for me if my grief is excessive. O adorable Saviour, to thee I flee; have compassion upon me; O strengthen my mind, reform what is amiss in me. To thy service I devote the remainder of my days; my first and most earnest desire is to do the will of my heavenly Father; to follow thy blessed example; to propagate thy holy religion; to assert thy divinity; to teach the young and ignorant to know thee as the Son of God, the Saviour of the world. My next desire is to see all my own dear children walking in thy faith and fear, fulfilling their duty as becomes thy disciples.

My next desire is to see the children of the poor improve in godly knowledge and practice.

And I have still another ardent desire; that the adult poor of this neighbourhood, may under thy grace and benediction become Christians upon principle. To accomplish these purposes I would willingly devote my time, if I had ability to write, but I do not as yet find either my mind or body equal to the exertion.

Let me call to mind the blessings I am now in in possession of. At the head of these, let me place a sense of the divine favour, a well grounded hope, that God regards me as his child, for Jesus Christ's sake; an humble persuasion that the Saviour of the world reckons me among his faithful servants. O what inestimable blessings

are these! praised be the God of all goodness, the fountain of these unspeakable, these inestimable blessings! may I never forfeit them by disobedience! may I retain them to the end of life; may I carry them out of the world with me! these are not of a perishable nature; these are the seeds of everlasting blessings!

I have reason to hope I possess the esteem and favourable opinion of many good people; this is by no means a blessing to be disregarded. May I not grow vain upon it, but consider it as an incentive to virtuous actions; may I preserve to the end of life a good character, such as my children may take comfort from when I am gone down to the silent dust; may they feel an honest pride in the fair reputation of their mother, as they and I now do, in that of their father.

I have a happy influence over the minds of many poor people, both children and adults. This I consider not only as a blessing, but as an honour conferred upon me. It is a blessing most undoubtedly, for it is delightful in the exercise of it, and there is a great reward annexed to it. It is an honour, for it places me in the rank of a chosen servant; I am the *handmaid of the Lord!* O what are all the titles of earthly grandeur to this! O blessed Saviour, I had rather be a door keeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of the ungodly; but divine Providence has allotted me a more respectable office; I am often employed to administer to the temporal wants of my

indigent neighbours, and it is my blest employment to teach the Gospel to the poor! Rejoice, O my heart! rejoice with exceeding great joy, in the honour bestowed upon thee! may I be a faithful steward, a zealous teacher! may I be extensively useful to the rising generation; O that I may recover my strength before I go hence and be no more seen! may I live, if such be the will of God, to accomplish the religious purposes of my heart.

I have a family of dutiful, affectionate children, what a blessing is this. I have reason to hope, that though death must for a time separate us, we shall all finally meet, never more to part. O may I be thankful for this blessing; may I try in future to enjoy it instead of dwelling upon these reflections which embitter life; and if my dear children ever read these pages after I am gone to my long home; if they awaken any tender regrets for the loss of an affectionate parent, may they be comforted with the reflection, that by their amiable conduct they greatly added to her earthly felicity. Yes, my dear children, you have amply repaid every maternal care, and if ever it is your lot to bear a parent's name, may your children prove to you, what you have been to me; I cannot wish you a higher degree of happiness in that relation, for it is not attainable upon earth. O may each of you follow my example in this one particular; instill into the minds of your infants as soon as reason dawns, the principles of religion, the divine blessing will accompany your endeavours.

Should prosperity be granted to me and my family, may our inclination to do good continue with it, and encrease as our abundance encreases, or if it be the will of God to cloud with adversity, may we all be resigned! let it be our joint determination to be exactly just in all our dealings; to moderate our desires, to rely on the Providence of God, for all good things, and never to think or say *the power of my hand, or my own wisdom has gotten me this wealth, or gained me this advantage.*

I have sober, regular, and I believe faithful servants; this is also a comfort. And I have many blessings and comforts besides. Let me not then sink into despondency like one forsaken of God, because he has seen fit to take my dear husband from me, but rather let me rejoice in the goodness of my Maker, and endeavour to enjoy with a cheerful mind, the blessings and comforts in possession. I will do so. I will strive to subdue my cares, I therefore, begin the year with joy and thanksgivings.

O Father of mercies continue to me thy favour, and I will fear no evil! Redeemer of mankind, continue to me thy love, and I will endeavour to follow thy example of patience.

Jan. 11. On Sunday evening I found myself fatigued with teaching the children of the Sunday School, and not able to write, I therefore filled up the time I usually allot to the continuation of these pages, with reading over the transcript of the last

year's Meditations, which raised my soul from earthly cares, and prepared me for reading family prayers with fervency and devotion.

I have had several nights of quiet comfortable repose, and though my heart has felt many a pang, and my eyes have shed many tears for the loss of my dear husband, I have not given way to fruitless sorrow, but have resisted it, I think, as much as I could.

I have been vexed by an obstruction thrown in my way, when I was rejoicing in the happy success of my plan for getting the poor to attend publick worship. But I am not discouraged on this subject, so as to remit my labours. The greater the difficulties, the greater must be my exertions. While I live I will do all in my power to promote the religious observance of the Sabbath Day. If my life be spared I will try to bring the poor to the Sacrament.

I have also had much vexation in the course of the last five months from the ill behaviour of the parents of the children of the schools. No less than five of them have taken their girls away. One of them yesterday withdrew her children, and treated me with the greatest insolence imaginable. I was hurt at her ingratitude to me, but that soon subsided; I meet with no more than our blessed Redeemer taught his disciples to expect; but I am grieved that my pains to improve two children of promising dispositions, and ready capacities, are, after five years instruction, rendered abortive.

I resolve that the ill treatment I meet with shall shall not cause me to remit my attention to the schools.

Father of mercies, and God of all consolation, I presume to offer unto thee my humblest thanksgivings, for thine abundant mercies bestowed upon me, and my children. O may we ever be grateful to thee; may we strive to do thy blessed will.

Saviour of mankind, I beseech thee, look with compassion and tenderness upon me, thy true, though weak disciple. O accept my humble services, and give efficacy to them. Let not Satan snatch away those whom we have gathered together, but keep them safe in thy fold. Lord, thou knowest that it is not through carelessness in me that any of thy lambs stray away; I would do my duty; I would lead them all to thee if I were able to do so; but the arts of the wicked one prevail against me. O may those two poor children lately so dear to me, call to mind hereafter the lessons I have given them; may they be awakened to a sense of duty by other means, so that they be not totally lost! Lord, I beseech thee to bless my labours, without thy blessing they cannot succeed. I would fain pray to thee with fervent devotion but a sense of weariness overpowers me; I must yield to it. O Lord, the earthly body presses down the immortal spirit; but it will not always be so; I shall, I trust, here-

after, serve and praise thee with unabating vigour, with unremitting fervour!

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Adorable Saviour, vouchsafe to receive the homage of a heart most zealously devoted to thee; vouchsafe to bless my labours in thy service. I desire as the greatest honour and happiness I can have in this world to be instrumental in the propagation of thy holy religion. Transporting thought! I trust I have already been so, thanksgivings a thousand times repeated cannot express the joy of my soul in this reflection! Vouchsafe also to accept my humble endeavours to instruct the poor children of this place, and continue to us the means of supporting the schools. For my own part, I should think no sacrifices too great for the accomplishment of the important work of teaching the Gospel to the poor.

Jan. 24. I had another most comfortable serene day, and a night of calm and refreshing repose; praised be the Lord, for his merciful kindness!

For these last two or three days I have felt more self approbation than usual. I am desirous of considering it as proceeding from the testimony of a good conscience, and a sense of the favour of God; O that I may judge rightly in this matter! If my ways are pleasing to thee, O Lord, and this sweet peace is the reward thou bestowest upon me thy humble, but faithful servant, for my weak endeavours to do my duty, vouchsafe to continue it; if it is the effect of vanity or of spiritual pride,

quench it I beseech thee. O God, I would suffer any thing either of body or mind (thy grace assisting me) rather than grow conceited, and vain of my own righteousness. Lord Jesus, to thee alone, I look for justification; on thy merits are all my hopes of Salvation founded.

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I hear with great concern that the King of France is put to death by his rebellious subjects; May the Supreme Disposer of all events, who for wise reasons no doubt, has suffered this unhappy sovereign to fall by the hands of his enemies; defend our gracious King from all wicked schemes that are forming against his throne and government! and may the Almighty preserve these kingdoms from the machinations of foreign powers, and internal foes! may true religion flourish and encrease more and more, and engage the blessing of Heaven!

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Merciful and gracious Father, thou knowest my poor frail heart better than I know it myself; all its weaknesses are known to thee; I presume not to repine that thou hast seen fit to take from me, my dear husband; I know that all thy ways are just and good; I doubt not, but that in this dispensation thou hast shown mercy both to him and to me; him thou hast removed from a state of pain and trouble, the stroke of death to all appearance was gentle: I do not wish him back again. To me thou hast shown abundant mercy in

strengthening me to bear this afflicting loss; praised and adored be thy name, O Lord, for thy great goodness to me on this trying occasion. The gratitude I feel is too great for expression, but to thee it is known; vouchsafe to continue to me thy loving kindness. O Lord, though I retain this affectionate remembrance of my dear departed husband, though I love my children with the utmost degree of maternal affection; yet I trust I love thee still more; I trust I love thee with all my heart, and with all my soul, and with all my strength.

O Lord, I hope that my dear husband is among the redeemed and sanctified; among the spirits of just men made perfect; among those who to all eternity will do thy blessed will. With no earthly affection do I love him, but I hope in some degree as angels love each other in that blest state in which none marry, or are given in marriage.

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Divine Saviour! Friend of human kind. Thou knowest how anxious I am to shew forth thy glory; thou knowest how earnestly I wish to guard young minds against the false doctrines of those who deny thy divinity; who rank thee with mere human beings. O that thou wouldst grant me this honour, the highest that my soul aspires to in this world: O that thou wouldst vouchsafe to bless my labours. Adorable Saviour, one of the Prophets inspired by the Holy Ghost, said "those that turn many to righteous-

ness shall shine forth in the kingdom of thy Father, like stars in the firmament." O that I had power and ability to do this. Lord, I would labour day and night to effect it; no toil should I think too great that my weak frame would sustain to accomplish it. But thou knowest best what I am fit for, and if thou deniest me this honour, thou wilt I am confident accept my earnest desire with equal kindness as thou wouldst the performance of it; what I have done towards it, is laid before thee; I have offered it at thy Altar. Dispose of it as thou seest fit; O had I lived at the time when thou wast upon earth, perhaps thou wouldst have allowed me to sit at thy feet like Mary. Blessed Lord, when shall I behold thy glorious face? when shall I approach thy presence? Let me claim a share in thy divine promises, a disciple's share. Grant me thy peace while I remain in this world; prepare for me a mansion in the kingdom of thy heavenly Father. May I be amongst those whom thou wilt, at thy second coming, own as thy most faithful servants! Lord, thou knowest that I love thee! thou knowest that with gratitude unutterable, I am sensible of thine infinite compassion to a lost race. That I place my whole dependence for Salvation upon thy merits. Thou knowest how earnestly I wish to be guided constantly by the Holy Spirit!

O Divine Spirit! Spirit of the everlasting Father! Spirit of the Son of God! vouchsafe to descend upon me! my heart is defiled with many

sins, but it wishes to be cleansed; it desires to be the temple of thy holy residence; as far as its weak powers can do, it will cast out every thought and desire that is offensive to thy holiness, but without thy aid it can do nothing. Descend, O divine Spirit! Cleanse and purify my heart; O that it could retain the purity which thou bestowest; but it is too apt to resist thy godly motions; to thee I now resign it! — — — — —

Jan. 28. After a night of refreshing sleep I am risen from my bed with a determination to pursue my works for the benefit of the poor. May the blessing of the Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, attend me. To the Providence of God I humbly commit all my concerns both temporal and spiritual.

Jan. 29. By this day's post I had a most acceptable letter from the Bishop of St. David's *, which has revived my hopes concerning my publications for the poor; my heart truly rejoices in the hope that my adorable Saviour has hearkened to my humble petitions, and that he will graciously accept the offering I have made of my labours in the glorious cause of his religion. I can truly say that I have more delight in the hope of being thus owned as his disciple, than I could have had were all the riches and honours of the world bestowed upon me.

* Horsley.

O beloved Saviour, continue to bless me with thy favour; O prosper my handy work; employ me in thy service; thou knowest the earnest desire of my soul; thou knowest the zeal with which my heart now glows; if there be any sparks of pride and vanity mixed with it, quench them by thy Holy Spirit. O that my heart may be purified from every base alloy! that it may be undefiled! Lord Jesus! most fervently do I desire to assist in making the truths of thy glorious Gospel known to the poor; refuse not my humble services; with my whole heart do I wish to serve thee; reject not my humble petitions! Lord I hope I am not high-minded; I hope I do not occupy myself in matters that are too high for me; I hope I already understand thy precepts; but I will not rest here O Lord; I will study thy word night and day, to qualify myself for the blessed work I desire so ardently to perform; I will not set about it with the pride of human reason, but with all humility of mind, praying for the aid of the holy Spirit; I will banish all selfish views; I will strive to keep my heart from aspiring after the applauses of weak mortals; I will endeavour to keep myself from being lifted up, should I even obtain the praises of those who are eminent for piety and learning. Lord I know thou rejectest the proud, but givest grace unto the humble. I will strive to be humble and lowly; may my endeavours be assisted by the Holy Spirit. To thee

I commit my cause, O blessed Redeemer; if thou seest fit to disappoint my hopes, teach me to be contented.

Feb. 2. For the three last days I have been so fully occupied with writing to the Bishop of —— —— and others, concerning my books for the poor, that I have had no time to write my Journal; my health in the mean while has been better than for some time past, and I am in hopes that the Society for promoting Christian Knowledge will adopt my books. But it is still a doubt with me, whether it will do so or not, though they go very powerfully recommended. I will endeavour to prepare my mind for a disappointment. But it will be a very great one, for my scheme, without its aid, will fall to the ground. At present, I hope my mind is, in respect to them, in a very proper temper: I hope I have no self-interested views beyond those of obtaining the approbation of my divine Lord, and the good opinion of his faithful servants. I trust I shall not be lifted up if my wishes be answered, and I will endeavour not to be cast down should they be frustrated. To thee, O blessed Saviour, I commit my cause; it is thy honour I have in view. O vouchsafe to accept my humble services!

Feb. 5. This is the day that is to determine the success of the plan I have formed for the improvement of the education of the poor; desirous as I am that it should be adopted by the Society for promoting Christian Knowledge, I feel at present

very calm and easy about it, and I hope I shall continue to do so; the honour of my Saviour, and the good of the poor, are the sole ends I have in view. O merciful Father, vouchsafe to bless my endeavours to assist in propagating the Gospel of thy dear Son.

Blessed and adorable Saviour, look with pity I most humbly beseech thee, on me thy poor weak disciple. Lord, if I thought I was acting contrary to my duty in thus indulging my regret for the loss of my dear departed husband, I would not do it. If I know my own heart, dear as this affection is to it, I would pluck it out and cast it from me, if it rivaled that to which thou hast a superior claim. Divine Lord, adorable Saviour, merciful Redeemer, Son of God, I am ready to obey thee in all things to the best of my power. O vouchsafe to bless my labours for the instruction of the poor, and I will bid adieu to every indulgence that may interfere with the exercise of them.

O eternal and all merciful Father, I acknowledge my transgressions; I am sorry for my sins; I implore thy forgiveness for Jesus Christ's sake.

O Lord God Almighty send down, I beseech thee, thy blessing upon my dear children. O keep them stedfast in the path of duty by thy grace, and if any should swerve from it, vouchsafe to call them back by thy restraining and correcting grace. O Lord, I beseech thee, preserve from all the perils of child-bearing my dear daughter. O may I with joy embrace the child of my child. If it sees

the light, may it be thine from the hour of its birth!

Feb. 15. I have for the last three or four days been occupied with my writings for the instruction of the poor, with which I am determined to go on, notwithstanding all discouragements.

Praised be thy name, O Lord, for the mercies which thou hast vouchsafed to me in the week past, particularly for thy great goodness to my dear son. O Lord, I am not worthy of the least of all thy mercies. I feel most sensibly thine abundant kindness. O that I could make an acceptable return. I do not, I hope, go presumptuously out of the way of thy commandments, though I too often fall into sin, I love thee with a perfect heart, serve thee with a willing mind; but I cannot always pray to thee as I wish to do, I cannot at all times pour forth thy praises with that ardour which becomes thy devoted servant. O Lord, may I but find admittance after this life into the kingdom of thy dear Son; and I will join with the heavenly host in those divine Hallelujahs which are sung to the honour of thee and of the Lamb that was slain.

O blessed Saviour, Son of the Father, have compassion upon me! Thou knowest the weakness and infirmity of my heart. Thou knowest my zeal for thy service. My love for the poor children whom I wish to train in thy faith and fear. My true regard for the honour of thy name. Lord Jesus have compassion upon me; O send me strength

from above; keep alive in my heart the flame of devotion, without which I am as it were dead. I love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. All my delight is in the saints that are upon the earth, and in such as excel in virtue. I set not my affections on things below, but upon things above; upon the treasures and riches of thy eternal kingdom; of that kingdom in which I hope to see the glory of my heavenly Father; to behold thy face; to dwell with angels and the spirits of just men made perfect. O that I may among the latter find my dear departed husband and children! O that the rest of my dear family who are now sojourning with me upon earth may be finally added to that blessed society. Lord, that we may attain this inconceivable felicity, vouchsafe to guide and direct our steps in the ways of godliness. Send to us thy Holy Spirit to purify and sanctify us, to strengthen and comfort us!

Blessed Saviour, thou knowest the very fervent desire which I have to be instrumental to the propagation of thy holy religion. If I am a fit instrument, vouchsafe to employ me. If I am not, endue me with patience to bear the disappointment. Never, never did I more earnestly desire any thing since I have been in this world, than to contribute towards the improvement of the children of the poor; surely thy first disciples could not feel a greater desire; O Lord they were poor illiterate men, yet so far from despising them, thou didst bestow upon them the richest spiritual gifts. I do not covet such endowments as theirs. I do not ex-

pect such extraordinary illumination. I only desire to instil into the minds of the young and the poor those doctrines which thy apostles have given to the world in their writings. I will lay aside all pride of human reason; I will study the word of God, and hope for the aid of the Holy Spirit in my attempts to explain it. Gracious God, if I ask any thing amiss, forgive me, and grant me an interest in the atonement which thou hast made for the sins of mankind. — — — — —

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I hope it is not wrong indulging the remembrance of my dear husband, for I am confident that the affection I feel for him is perfectly consistent with the love of God It is pure and spiritual. If I did not think his soul was righteous in the sight of God, through the merits of Jesus Christ, I would endeavour to wean my affections from him; but if death is only the introduction to another mode of existence, which I shall in my turn enter upon, and the mutual love we felt for each other was such as ought to be between husband and wife, why should I try to obliterate it? The desire to rejoin a beloved husband is an additional motive to endeavour to secure the happiness of heaven. And how is this to be secured? This I very well know, and I trust I shall faithfully practice it: I must love God above all things, I must love my neighbour as myself.

O stupendous, most excellent and wonderful Jehovah! whether I contemplate thee as Father, Son,

or Holy Ghost, I adore, I honour, I love thee with all my heart, with all my soul, and with all my strength. O Lord, how great, how good, how wise, how powerful, how bountiful, how gracious, how merciful art thou! my soul at this instant feels for thee sentiments of adoration, love, and gratitude inexpressible. But thou canst see it! O how earnestly do I desire to obtain thy favour; how do I hope to be admitted hereafter to thy glorious presence; what delight have I in thy commandments! how dearly do I prize the revelations of thy will; how firmly believe in thy promises! how greatly do I fear thy threatenings! Lord I most earnestly wish to cast out of my heart every thing that is offensive to thee! I lament that I cannot at all times keep up the flame of devotion which at this time glows in my heart. But alas! how long will this fervour of devotion last? a few short minutes perhaps; O that I could keep it eternally; surely it is a foretaste of the joys of heaven! Merciful and gracious Father, before it sinks into languor, accept my thanksgivings and praises! O Lord God of hosts, accept the praises of a poor weak mortal; what have I in heaven but thee, and there is nothing upon earth I desire in comparison of thee; glory to God in the highest!

O Lamb of God, Son of the Father, graciously accept my praises and thanksgivings; thou art great and glorious; begotten of the Father before all worlds; very God of very God; King of kings, and Lord of lords; the Saviour and Re-

deemer of a lost world; my Lord and my God, my Saviour and Redeemer. I thank thee, O Lord, most mighty for thy goodness in redeeming a lost race. I thank thee for the pattern of perfect virtue which thou gavest in human nature. I thank thee for causing thy Gospel to be written. I thank thee for the comfortable hopes I derive from that blessed Gospel. I thank thee for the honour thou hast bestowed upon me in allowing me to be instrumental in spreading the knowledge of it. O continue to me thy loving-kindness; vouchsafe to accept my services; employ me, blessed Lord, I most humbly beseech thee; O cast me not off; turn not away thine ear from my humble petition. Lord, if faith can recommend me, I trust I shall find acceptance; Lord, I as firmly believe all that is recorded in Scripture concerning thee as if I had been an eye-witness of it. Every word that thou hast made known concerning the redemption of mankind I as firmly believe as I believe that I am now alive; I see them all as realities with my mind's eye. O according to my faith be it unto me!

O divine Spirit! my faith in thee is equal to that which I feel respecting the Father and the Son. I believe that there is a Holy Spirit as firmly as I believe that I have a soul. I believe that thou art the Sanctifier and Comforter; how hast thou renewed, refreshed, sanctified, and comforted me; but let me remember that faith without works is dead: adorable Trinity! in whose name was baptized, whatever works thou requirest of

me I will strive to do. I will obey thee, O Father, I will honour thee, O Son; I will yield myself to thy guidance, O Holy Ghost; may I be enabled to fulfil these resolutions; may I improve by divine grace in every Christian virtue.

Having prayed for myself, I now presume to offer my intercessions for my dear family. A husband I no longer have: but he wants not the prayers of a poor mortal. O Lord, I beseech thee to bless my dear children; preserve them from all evil, particularly from sin. Let not one of them be drawn away from thee; give to every one of them grace to serve and obey thee; withdraw their minds from earthly trifles, and fix them upon heavenly things. Lord! with reluctance I quit this holy exercise; this delightful occupation; this heavenly work! O while I pray with my family keep up this spirit of devotion.

March 5. Gracious Father, I most humbly beseech thee to prosper the journey I am about to undertake, and permit me to return in health and safety to my dear family; and O, during my absence from them, bless and preserve my dear children, that we may have a happy meeting; pardon the tears that now fall at the recollection of my last sorrowful journey when I dreaded to meet the dear afflicted Father of my children; when I returned without a beloved son whom I had taken to Margate But I will not give way to unavailing regrets. My dear child, and my dear husband, I hope and trust are out of the reach of pain

and sorrow. For them it would be sinful to grieve, and my own portion of sorrow I must strive to bear it with patience, looking forward to the eternal world where all is peace and joy.—Wherever I go, or whatever befals me, I will strive to act as becomes a child of God, the member of Christ, the inheritor of the kingdom of heaven: glorious titles! inestimable privileges! what are the trifles of this world in comparison of these!

Blessed Saviour, I humbly beseech thee to accept of my labours, and give efficacy to them. Thou knowest how I honour thee, and how I love the poor. O give me the blessing of a disciple.

March 16. Upon my return from Christchurch I found my dear H——— but very indifferent; he is now better, but he has symptoms of consumption which alarm me very much. O Lord, I implore thy mercy and compassion in behalf of my dear child, now afflicted with sickness; vouchsafe to restore him if thou seest fit to perfect health. O forgive the wish of a widowed mother, that I may no more experience the bitter pangs of losing a child! but thy will not mine be done! whether he live or die I trust he will be thine evermore!

March 17. Almighty God, merciful Father, what felicities hast thou provided for beings who in comparison of thee are nothing; and is it possible that such an insignificant creature as I am can be the object of divine regard? Is it possible that the Creator and Governor of the Universe will al-

low such a creature to call him Father; to look to him for blessings in this world; to hope to be admitted to his presence in heaven? With these hopes what should be my conduct upon earth? what must I do to shew my gratitude for the abundant kindness of an eternal God? O Lord, heavenly Father, I am very sensible that of myself I am not able to please thee. I know and feel my imperfections.

Blessed Saviour, vouchsafe to intercede for me. To thee I fly. If I had not thy merits to depend upon what would become of me a miserable sinner; O Lord, have mercy upon me! have mercy upon me! speak peace to my troubled soul. O that I could get the better of every sin and every infirmity! that I could do the will of my Father which is in heaven as it is done by the angels. O that I may be admitted among them! that I may be allowed to approach the throne of God; that I may behold thee my divine Redeemer. O that I may be received by thee as a true and faithful disciple. I will strive to be faithful till death. May I attain to the crown of life. Accept my services, O Lord, I offer them with an humble mind, not in the pride of human reason!

O Lord God Almighty, I now feel that veneration which becomes a rational creature when addressing thee, the Lord of glory. My spirit humbles itself before thee; in all humility acknowledging thine infinite greatness, and my own insignificance; how wonderful, how great, how excel-

lent art thou, the Creator, the Governor, the Preserver of thousands of worlds! perhaps of myriads and myriads of intelligent beings beyond the reach of thought! O Lord, I love thee with all my heart. Merciful Father, I am sensible of thine abundant kindness; I desire to be obedient to thy heavenly will. It is a real and a deep affliction to me to be conscious that I do not fulfil it better. But, O Lord, thou knowest the great infirmities of my own nature; thou knowest how the earthly body presses down the soul that muses upon many things; and I have many things to muse upon. May thy Spirit help my infirmities; may thy mercy pardon my omissions and deficiencies for Jesus Christ's sake.

Blessed, divine, beloved Saviour, look with thy usual benignity upon me thy faithful disciple. Lord thou knowest that I love thee. Cast me not away from thy presence, but draw me nearer to thyself. Let me have the comfort of being united to thee. Send to me thy Holy Spirit; O Lord leave me not to myself; and O that thou wouldest be pleased to strengthen me to pursue my work, and prosper my labours. Lord there is no honour upon earth I desire so much as to be among thy chosen servants; the teachers of thy glorious Gospel. O grant to me the longing desire of my heart; make me instrumental to the improvement of the rising generation of the poor; let me feed thy lambs with heavenly food; thou knowest, blessed Lord, how I love thee; thou know-

est how highly I esteem thy word and doctrines. Lord I would think no labour too great to accomplish the design I have undertaken; I will persist in defiance of difficulties, if thou wilt vouchsafe to strengthen me; but I am very weak both in body and mind. O that I may recover my strength before I go hence and am no more seen. O that I may be permitted to shew thy glory to this generation, and leave behind me a memorial of it for those who are yet for to come. Divine Friend of human souls, thou knowest the cares which at present assail me. Thanksgivings a thousand times repeated be offered to thee for that tranquillity which I now enjoy in the midst of them. This can be nothing less than the peace of God which passeth all understanding, that peace which thou didst bequeath to thy faithful disciples before thou didst leave this world. — — — — — — —

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I am not eager after worldly gain; my desires are fixed on heavenly treasures. The trifles of this world cannot satisfy an immortal soul. I look forward to the joys that are set before me. O that I may for the sake of them patiently endure the various evils which I must encounter in the road to them; and can I reasonably hope that laden as I am with sins and infirmities, I shall rise to the heavenly regions, to the abode of angels, to the presence of God? O yes, praised be thy goodness, adorable Redeemer, thou hast loosened the burden of my sins, thou hast borne my infirmities, thou

hast made the requisite atonement, thou hast washed me in thy precious blood. If I continue faithful till death, thou wilt give me the robe of righteousness. I shall for thy sake be justified in the sight of my heavenly Father. I shall receive the crown of glory; I shall be put in possession of an heavenly inheritance; I shall be happy with thee to all eternity.

Blessing and honour, and power, and dominion, be ascribed unto thee, O divine Saviour, adorable Jesus, Son of the Father! Lamb of God! for thou art worthy to receive them!

Lord, if I am solicitous that all the world should do thee homage, still more anxious am I that all belonging to *me* should be among thy most faithful servants. May the blessed Spirit fill their hearts with holy love, and fortify them against the delusions of Satan. May none of those whom I have brought into the world fix their affections on the pomps and vanities of it! let them act and think as becomes the citizens of thy heavenly kingdom! and O, if I have the comfort of seeing my childrens' children, may *they* also grow up in thy faith and fear!

March 30. It is impossible for me to recollect all the transactions of the last week. I cannot take account of all my thoughts, words, and actions, even during the short period of seven days; Nay, I should find it difficult to recal to my remembrance those of a single day. Yet they are all recorded in heaven, and will be brought forth

at the last day to my everlasting comfort, if they have been pleasing to God; to my eternal shame and misery if they have been wilfully perverse and contrary to the divine commandments. Of an *habitual* course of wickedness, thanks to divine grace my conscience acquits me; but in the course of seven days I commit numberless sins and offences; I do many things that I ought not to do; I leave undone many things that I ought to have done. O that I could recollect them individually, that I might confess them to my heavenly Father. Lord, I do not desire to cloak my offences before thy face. I know that my heart is ever open to thy all-seeing eye. I know that I can hide nothing from thee; nor would I deny my faults if it were possible to conceal them from thy knowledge. When I have offended against thy holy laws, all that I can do is to repent of my sins, and confess them with a truly penitent heart, and implore thy pardon for Jesus Christ's sake.

Lord, thou seest the gratitude of my heart which I cannot find words to express. How true and faithful are thy promises! how just are all thy ways. O Lord, I praise, I bless, I magnify thy name, for all thy goodness to me and mine. Almighty Friend of the widow and fatherless, I thank thee with my whole heart! No worldly affairs, no anxious care shall find admittance to my breast; I commit my cause to thee. I know that thou wilt order all things for the best. O Lord, and can it be possible that the Governor of the uni-

verse; the Creator of millions of worlds, will condescend to direct even the worldly concerns of a weak mortal? O yes, not a sparrow falls to the ground without him; the very hairs of our head are all numbered; he constantly watches over his faithful servants; he will not suffer the wicked to approach to hurt them; O the felicity of having such a Being for a Friend! O the misery of having such an one for an Avenger! Lord, thou knowest how greatly I love and honour thee. I love thee above all things, even as I trust more than life itself. I think I could lay down my life willingly rather than lose thy divine favour. Lord, I fear thee as much as I love thee. I would not willingly throw off my obedience to thy laws for all this world can give. Lord, I honour thee with my whole heart. What have I in heaven but thee; and there is none upon earth that I desire in comparison of thee. How insignificant do all that is called great and honourable in this world appear in comparison of thee, who art the Author of all that is truly great and good! not only my own worldly affairs, but the cause of the poor which I have engaged in, do I confide to thee. O Lord, not for my own gratification do I strive to gain the approbation of the learned, but as I trust with the sole view of promoting the knowledge of the Gospel among the poor. If at any time thou seest the least spark of vanity or vain-glory arising in my mind, quench it instantly by thy Spirit, O

keep me humble. Lord, I am truly sensible of my own weakness and deficiency.

April 29. — — — — — — — Merciful Father! God of all power, goodness, and holiness: I have confessed my sins unto thee as far as I can call them to remembrance; but I am conscious that numberless offences remain buried in forgetfulness. O that I could call them every one to mind! That I could confess them separately, but this I am unable to do. I trust and hope that they were sins of infirmity, and that thou, in thy infinite compassion, hast vouchsafed to pardon them for the sake of thy dear Son, who came into the world to expiate the offences of that sinful race, to which I belong. Surely, O gracious God, the peace and serenity I feel at this instant is an earnest of thy divine favour. Suffer me not to deceive myself. Lord, if I know my own heart, I love, I fear, I reverence, I adore thee most fervently and unfeignedly. Never am I so truly happy as when I can shake off worldly cares, and address myself to thee with recollection of mind.

May 15. This is the anniversary of that sad day which made a fatal separation betwixt me and my dear husband. Yesterday I thought of the last day of my dear husband's life, and when I went to bed expected that the recollection of the parting scene would keep my thoughts waking throughout the night. I expected that I should water my widowed pillow with my tears, but far

otherwise: I felt such inward assurances that the dear departed was removed to a happier state, that I could not lament his loss: and in a short time I sunk into a sweet and peaceful repose, which continued till the morning. I rose betwixt six and seven with great serenity of mind. I have resolved, if possible, to avoid the interruption of company, and to spend my time this day in religious meditations, and in paying a tribute of gratitude to the memory of my dear husband.

O merciful Father, I address myself unto thy divine Majesty, with a thankful and a grateful heart. How faithful are thy promises, O Lord! How true is thy word! A father to the fatherless, and a husband to the widow, art thou most assuredly in thy holy habitation! Thou sawest fit, O Lord, by a sudden stroke of Providence, to take from my dear children one of the best and tenderest of earthly parents; from me, one of the most affectionate and faithful of husbands; but in the very instant at which he was struck by the dart of death, thy sustaining hand was extended to us, thy comforts were poured into our souls! I fell on my knees before thee, and implored thee to enable me to do my duty, in that state of life to which thou wert pleased to call me. I hope and trust that I have hitherto conducted myself in my widowhood agreeably to thy holy will, as far as the great infirmity of my nature would admit. Lord, if I have thus done my duty, I ascribe it entirely to thy grace and goodness: to thy name be

the glory. Vouchsafe to accept my sincere and hearty thanksgivings for thine abundant kindness to me, thine unworthy servant.

O Lord, when troubles encompassed me about, when the dear partner of all my joys and sorrows, with whom I had lived for more than half my life, lay before me a lifeless corpse, how could I have supported my soul without thy all-powerful aid? Alas, it would have been too much for humanity to bear; but sustained by thy grace, thoughts such as these presented themselves to my mind—"The body that is now decaying, will give place to the spiritual body, which, through the mercy of Christ Jesus, shall rise in incorruption, adorned with eternal beauty. The soul still lives, it has escaped from a world of cares, it shall no more feel the pangs of sorrow, the bitterness of grief; it is entered on a better state of existence, it will be cleansed from all impurities in the blood of the Lamb, that was slain from the foundation of the world." Full of reflections like these, the genuine fruits of thy Holy Spirit, O merciful Father, as I humbly trust, I was enabled to kneel by the body of my beloved, and to pray with resignation.

When I retired at night to my widowed bed, I shed many tears, it is true; but they relieved my heart, and when I offered up my fervent supplications to thee, O God of mercy, what consolation didst thou instantly afford me! O never, never let me lose the remembrance of thy transcendant goodness. My heart

now swells with gratitude too great for expression. Thou, O Lord, canst behold it. O may it be acceptable to thee! Some bitter pangs I experienced it is true; but how were they softened by thy tender love! O Lord, I acknowledge that thou didst show towards me the kindness of a heavenly Father. Praised and adored be thy glorious name, for thy unspeakable mercies. I would declare them, but they are more than I am able to express.

Saviour of the world, blessed Jesus, beloved Redeemer! how graciously didst thou fulfil thy promises, made to thy disciples in thy tender love extended to me in this time of my affliction. Thou sawest the trouble of my mind, and didst graciously calm my soul. I felt as if thou hadst spoken to *me* the words of consolation, which the Gospel affords. I came to thee when I was heavy laden, and thou didst refresh me abundantly. What am I, that the God of heaven and earth, the eternal Son of the eternal Father, should so regard me? O Lord, thou givest grace to the humble, thou knowest the humility of my soul: I ascribe all to thy unmerited goodness!

Gracious Father, how great were thy consolations when I first saw my fatherless children: not giving way to immoderate sorrow, but resigning their minds to thy dispensations, striving to support me and each other. How did I rejoice in the midst of my afflictions, that thou hadst given them good dispositions, and that thou didst give me

grace to impart the knowledge of religion to them in their earliest years. God of all mercies! vouchsafe to receive my most humble, grateful, and fervent thanksgivings for the invaluable blessing of good and dutiful children. O may the present generation of my beloved offspring continue in thy faith and fear, while they live upon earth, and may they be admitted to thy kingdom of glory hereafter! And may succeeding generations, if any proceed from them, tread in the same bright path, and attain the same ultimate bliss! O merciful Father, adorable Saviour! Spirit of Sanctification, preserve my whole race from the temptations of the evil one. Let none of them be separated from thy fold. If any unhappily stray, bring them back, O Shepherd of Israel, bring them back, and finally restore them.

This day finishes the first year of my widowhood: one year have I lived without the society of my beloved husband; but my gratitude for his kindness is unabated. I lived with him nearly thirty years; and they were the happiest years of my life, though embittered by many cares. Never more shall I experience such days upon earth. However, I repine not at the will of heaven. It was doubtless best for *me* that I should be afflicted, and I doubt not but that it was a mercy to him to be relieved from the pains and sorrows of this world. I cannot think that we are separated for ever.

I must strive to recal the image of my dear husband to my remembrance. Never may I lose the recollection of his placid, his tender, his affectionate look, when he thought I had done something worthy of praise and commendation. O can I ever forget the kind expressions he so frequently used towards me. I reflect with delight inexpressible on the repeated assurances he gave me, that I had done my duty as a wife in an acceptable manner. I held him in high esteem: I would not have grieved him willingly. I will strive by attention to my children, and to all to whom he would have wished me to be attentive, to make the best return in my power. He, I trust, is removed to a state in which my poor services could make no addition to his happiness. My company is no loss to him: yet I hope he will be glad to meet with me again. O that it may be my lot to pass an eternity with him in the regions of bliss!

My health has been but indifferent for some days. The fears of sudden death have frequently assailed me; but, I thank God, I have no dread of an hereafter. I trust whenever my Lord comes, he will find me watching: a *profitable* servant I cannot be, but I hope I am a *faithful* one.

O great and glorious Lord God Almighty, Maker of every thing in heaven and earth, I adore thee with the most profound veneration. I acknowledge thine infinite goodness and compassion: I implore thy forgiveness of all my sins: I humble myself before thee, confessing my unworthiness.

O Lord, vouchsafe to accept me for my Redeemer's sake.

Blessed and adorable Saviour, Son of the everlasting Father, receive, I beseech thee, the willing homage of a heart most zealously devoted to thy service. Vouchsafe to own me, blessed Lord, as thy disciple, as thy handmaid. Reject me not, I earnestly beg. My cause is in thy hands. O deign to prosper it.

Spirit of Sanctification, vouchsafe to descend upon me: I open my heart to receive thee. O that it may become the temple of thy abode! Whatever thou findest amiss in it, cleanse and purify by thy all sanctifying grace. Strengthen me, blessed Spirit, to do my duty. O leave me not to myself, lest I go astray from the right path.

O holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, shed thy gracious benediction upon me and my family. Preserve us from the dangers and temptations of the world. Defend and protect us from all our enemies, spiritual and temporal; and, finally, conduct us to thine eternal kingdom. O Lord, I beseech thee particularly to preserve my dear daughter through all the perils of child-bearing, and make her in due time the joyful mother of a hopeful child, that it may be among thy chosen people!

June 19. Yesterday the long suspended affair, relating to my books for charity-schools, was determined. The Society for Promoting Christian

Knowledge have adopted them, and I have the greatest reason in the world to believe that they will be widely circulated. I will proceed with humility and zeal, exerting my best abilities, rejoicing in the favour of the Lord, not coveting the applauses of mankind.

It has already been noticed, that Mrs. Trimmer was honoured by the approbation of several of the Dignitaries of the Church, and one letter from the venerable Bishop of London has been inserted in these pages. The following letter will evince that she was happy enough to retain the good opinion of his Lordship. In the year 1803, he gave a convincing proof of it, by bestowing the living of Heston upon one of her sons, who had entered a short time before into the Church. The kind and condescending manner in which this favour was conferred, and the regard the good Bishop paid to the comfort of Mrs. Trimmer, by placing her son near her, more than doubled the obligation, and was indelibly impressed on her heart, and on the hearts of all those belonging to her.

TO MRS. TRIMMER.

Fulham, June 20.

Madam,

Be pleased to accept my best thanks for your very valuable and obliging present. At my leisure I shall look over all your tracts with care; but from what little I have been already able to read of them, they appear to me extremely well calculated to answer the pious and benevolent purposes you have in view. The youth of this country are under infinite obligations to you for the pains you have taken in various ways to instil the principles of true religion into their hearts: and I am particularly happy that my Diocese is likely to be so much benefited by your instructions. That God may give his blessing to your laudable exertions in so good a cause, is the sincere prayer of,

Madam,

Your obliged and obedient Servant,

B. London.

The high estimation in which the writings of Bishop Horsley are held, render any apologies for the introduction of the letter alluded to in the diary of Mrs. Trimmer unnecessary, since all re-

spect the opinions of so able a divine, on a subject of Christian education.

TO THE SAME.

Madam,

I have too long delayed to make my acknowments for your favour of the 17th, and the tracts that accompanied it. The good intention of them speaks sufficiently for itself; and from the general reputation of your writings in the world, I have no doubt of the ability of the execution. I have looked into them, and am happy to find observations upon the education of the children of the poor, which very much coincide with my own opinions. I am particularly pleased with the attestation of a person of your experience to the practicability of teaching the poorest children the whole of the Christian Religion. I have long been persuaded, that if the attempt to give them that instruction fail, it must be owing to some impropriety or defect in the manner of conveying it. For it was not by scraps of morality, with the aid of the single doctrine of a future retribution, but by unfolding the whole mystery of godliness to the common people, that the first preachers of the Gospel produced so wonderful a change in the manners of the whole world. I have put the tracts you sent me into the hands of the Secretary of the Society, and have told him that I shall attend at

the next general board (which sits to-morrow sen'night) to consider of the expediency of putting them upon the Society's Lists. In general, I know the Society is averse to the swelling of its catalogue with a variety of works of one sort.

I am, Madam,

With great esteem and respect,

Your very faithful and obedient Servant,

SAMUEL ST. DAVID'S.

Upper Seymour street,
Jan. 28, 1793.

The poor Lecturer of M. as he stiles himself, was one of the many indigent clergymen, to whose relief Mrs. Trimmer had the satisfaction of directing the bounty of an affluent friend.

TO THE SAME.

Madam,

The poor Lecturer of M——, who for many years has been struggling with a small precarious income and a rising family, begs leave to make his humble and most grateful acknowledgments to you for your great kindness in procuring for him a most unexpected and very liberal supply.

Last week I received from Mr. ——, of ——, twenty-five pounds, with an intimation that a *par-*

ticular friend of his had informed him, that this sum would be acceptable to me. I was fixed in astonishment, and overwhelmed with gratitude. For some time I could think of nothing but the largeness of the donation, and the singular beneficence of the donor. But I soon began earnestly to cast about in my mind, in order to discover this *particular friend*, to whose active benevolence I had been so much indebted. I was lost in a variety of conjectures. At last I received a letter from Dr. K——, informing me that the sum I received was from "a truly benevolent character, who annually expends a considerable part of an ample fortune in charitable donations to distressed clergymen of good character." A truly benevolent character indeed! I bless God that such are to be found in the world.

The Doctor proceeds: "A particular friend of mine recommended you to him." In conclusion he informs me, that this friend is Mrs. Trimmer, well known by her useful publications.

I know not, Madam, how to express my thanks for your successful exertions in behalf of an obscure stranger in a distant part of the kingdom, who never was a candidate for distinction in the republic of letters, and who never figured in the pulpits of the Metropolis or its vicinity. It is evident in this case, that you could be actuated by nothing but the purest benevolence. May God, who is love, reward you an hundred fold! I can-

not express sufficiently the sense I have of your goodness: I will only represent its effects.

You have rendered my poor wife and me quite easy in our minds, who often for these last five years have been very anxious, devising methods of œconomy, and deliberating on the entrenchments that might be made with least difficulty. You have enabled us to obtain a great number of comforts, and particularly you have put it in my power to keep a servant to assist us in rearing our tender babes, which for more than a year we have not been able to do.

I am, Madam,

With the highest respect, esteem, and gratitude,

Your obliged Servant,

R. R———.

TO THE SAME.

Vicarage, St. Mary's, Reading,
Feb. 7, 1797.

Many thanks to you, my dear Madam, and to you all, for your kind congratulations. We all unite in kind regards to you, and all your family. Lady Mendip and Mrs. Doyly have lately, unsolicited, been so kind as to confer upon me, in a most gratifying manner, the valuable living of Chelsea,

It is a great object to me, with my family, and moderate revenues, to accept it. But whether I shall resign Ealing, or St. Mary's, is not finally settled, nor may it be before Easter, perhaps. I can only say, that after so many years, I shall feel a regret in leaving either. But, without the least flattery to yourself, Ealing will have one cause of regret to me, the being no longer able to number you as one of my parishioners, nor to avail myself of your excellent services, and attention for the good, both worldly and spiritual, of my flock. A much abler and better pastor may easily be appointed by the Bishop of London in my stead. But I hope I shall not be so far removed from you, but that I may be so happy to enjoy the pleasure of your company and conversation, and to adopt some of your plans and regulations in my new parish.

The weather seems to be getting very cold again. I should hope there is this year a good supply for the poor of the parish of Ealing, from the residue of the general collection, that was not disposed of last year, and from the charities of this year. If you will be so kind to apply to Mr. W——, and refer him to my last letter to him, perhaps you will find something more, out of his own distribution to the upper side, if the weather seems to require it. But I think both you and he will do right, by parcels, to eke out your distributions, so as that they may not be entirely exhausted before Lady-day or Easter.

I am truly sorry for the falling off of the funds for the Industry and Sunday Schools: I would strongly recommend a sermon for their benefit in April. If I find I am to leave Ealing, and can do it, I shall perhaps wish to preach it, and to annex a contribution to my farewell sermon at Ealing Church in the morning, and at Brentford Chapel in the afternoon, of either the 23d or the 30th days of April, they being the two last Sundays in the month.

I remain, dear Madam,

With much regard,

Your truly faithful and sincere friend,

C. STURGESS.

TO THE SAME.

Chelsea Rectory, April 27, 1797.

My dear Madam,

I desired my daughter to inform you of the arrangement that has taken place, by which it is settled, that I am to hold St. Mary's, in Reading, with Chelsea. I can never expect such a parishioner as yourself again, go where I will, and I have no doubt but that I shall feel the want of your laudable exertions towards the temporal and spiritual wants of the poor in the parish to which

I am appointed. When I know what Sunday in May I can preach at Ealing (a parish for which I shall always preserve a true regard) for the benefit of the Sunday Schools, &c. &c. I will inform you, that you may give what notice you think proper in your part of the parish, as I purpose to preach in the afternoon of the same day, and with the same views, at Brentford Chapel. Whenever you are disposed to turn towards Chelsea, we shall be glad of the pleasure of seeing you.

I remain, dear Madam,

With much regard and esteem,

Your faithful friend and servant,

C. STURGESS.

TO THE SAME.

St. Mary's Reading,
Oct. 1, 1802.

My dear Madam,

I am leaving Reading for Chelsea this morning, and will not delay any longer returning you our best thanks for your truly Christian letter upon our late grievous loss. It is indeed a heavy stroke; but I hope God enables us to support ourselves under it with due submission to his blessed will. Thank God, we are all tolerably well,

but must long feel. My dear son was an excellent young man, and that is a great consolation to us to trust, that he is happy in a better state. I have a great loss in him likewise of a curate. If you know any respectable clergyman in priest's orders, and likely to be zealous and active in the discharge of the duties of a large parish, with a good voice and a strong constitution, perhaps you would favour me with a line to Chelsea. I have a temporary curate here till then.

May every blessing, temporal and spiritual, attend you and all your family. With our united regards and good wishes,

I remain, dear Madam,

Your faithful and afflicted friend,

C. Sturgess.

TO THE REV. MR. STURGESS.

Brentford, Feb. 2, 1805.

Dear and Rev. Sir,

I am extremely concerned that I should have appeared in the least degree remiss and inattentive, where I owe and feel, so much respect and esteem. Your kind visit to me, has not been forgotten, I can assure you: I have thought and talked much of the sincere and great pleasure it afforded me; and had not the intention of waiting upon you at

Chelsea the *first opportunity* been constantly alive in my mind, I should have addressed you by letter; but, for a great part of the interval that has elapsed, the weather has been so cold that I was fearful of going out, excepting to the Chapel, where I have repeatedly caught cold; so that I really have scarcely been without side my garden walls since I had the pleasure of seeing you here. Believe me, my excellent and revered friend, the sentiments of esteem with which your pious and exemplary conduct inspired me, when I had the happiness and advantage of being your parishioner, remain indelibly fixed; and my best wishes and my prayers have followed you since your removal. It was with the highest pleasure I perused your letter to my son; to see your hand again so steady, indicates, I hope, a considerable recovery of your strength; and I hope I shall sometimes be favoured with a few lines from you myself. My son will write and thank you for the good counsel you are so kind as to give him, but allow me to add my thanks also. The times, my dear Sir, are such as call for great exertions from the parochial clergy, and I trust they are made in many places; but, alas, in many others, there is great neglect. My dear son I hope will continue attentive to his duty; and among other circumstances, to stimulate his exertions, keep your example in view. What satisfaction must you have had during your long illness, in the reflection, that while you were capable of actual duty, you la-

boured faithfully in the vineyard. May the remainder of your life be crowned with the choicest blessings, which God bestows upon his approved ministers.

I beg, my good Sir, that you will present my kindest respects, with those of my family, to Mrs. Sturgess, and the young ladies, and accept them yourself; and that, you will believe me, with every sentiment of esteem,

Your faithful and obedient

Friend and Servant,

S. TRIMMER.

TO MRS. TRIMMER.

Rectory, Loddington,
April 24, 1805.

Madam,

It is with the truest concern that I am to comply with the request of my sister-in-law, Mrs. Sturgess, in communicating to you the melancholy event which took place here on Monday, in the death of my good brother, her husband. I have so long known the value he so justly set on your friendship and good opinion, as well as on the correspondence with you, that I have a satisfaction in assuring you of his retaining and expressing a sense of it to his latest hours. He had such

an anxious desire to revisit again his native neighbourhood, that he set out on Easter Tuesday, having himself officiated in part at the altar on Sunday, and had passed some days here in apparent health, and cheerful spirits. On Monday, a few moments before our dinner hour, he was seized with an illness, which proved of the apoplectic kind, and in less than half an hour defeated all endeavours to apply medical aid. Mrs. Sturgess and Miss H—— are enabled, through the goodness of Providence, to support themselves better under so heavy and sudden a calamity, from their long preparation for it, than if the change had taken place from a firmer state of health.

I beg leave to take this opportunity of expressing the sincere respect I have always entertained for yourself, and the pleasure I have in hearing of your son receiving a mark of the Bishop of London's well-judged disposal of preferment.

I am, Madam,

Your very faithful, humble Servant,

E. Jones.

CONTINUATION OF THE

JOURNAL FOR THE YEAR 1793.

July 1. Blessed and adorable Saviour, Lord Jesus Christ, receive, I most humbly beseech thee, the grateful tribute of thanks which I offer unto thee for thy great goodness bestowed upon me. O Lord, I feel a thorough sense of the honour thou hast done me, in thus suffering me to be the *teacher of babes*, and I will perform the important task with alacrity and zeal: I will not be a slothful servant.

O gracious and heavenly Father, God of all goodness, I, thy unworthy servant, most earnestly implore thy pardon and forgiveness for all my manifold offences, for Jesus Christ's sake, my adorable and divine Saviour. O Lord, I beseech thee to grant me the protection of thy good Providence, and to prosper the journey I am going to take tomorrow, with one of my dear children. Preserve us, O merciful God, from all accidents.

Extend thy blessing, O heavenly Father, to the children I leave behind me, and to every part of my household. Continue to the widow and the fatherless that care and tenderness which thou hast so abundantly shown us. Lord, in thee is our trust; let us never be confounded. Thou art our strong rock, whereunto we will always resort: thou art our defender and deliverer. O God, I

love thee with all my heart, with all my soul, and with all my strength. I adore thee, I worship thee, I desire to praise and magnify thy holy name. O Lord, thou art high above all that is called great and glorious. Great, excellent, most excellent Lord God Almighty, pardon my imperfections, accept my humble petitions and thanksgivings, flowing from a sincere, though weak, heart. Vouchsafe, O Lord, to bring us back in safety to this dear home, where my comforts are centered.

Accept my humble supplications in behalf of my poor neighbours. O spare me to be further useful to them, or if thou seest fit to take me from this world, vouchsafe to raise them up another friend, with zeal to do them good, and better ability. Blessed Saviour, I love them for thy sake, as well as because they are my brethren.

July 7. I am now at C——, in the house of my dear daughter ——, who has in the course of the last week made me a grandmother to a sweet little girl.

O God of all mercies, I render thee most humble and hearty thanks for giving to my dear child a happy deliverance from the pains and perils of childbirth; and for letting me see another generation. May the dear infant grow up in thy faith and fear, and finally partake of the salvation purchased for mankind by Jesus Christ. Amen!

O God, I have a fervent and sincere desire to serve thee myself with all my powers of body and mind; and to see thy will done by all my fellow

mortals, particularly those of my own family. O may we continue united in thy service upon earth, and be finally united in thy heavenly kingdom hereafter. There is nothing upon earth I desire so much, as to be a child of God, a member of Christ, an inheritor of the kingdom of heaven: that kingdom, O Lord, of which I love to think, and for which I desire to prepare myself, by following the precepts and example of my blessed Redeemer. O Lord, what is there in this transitory world, upon which an immortal soul can properly rest its hopes? My hope is placed upon joys that will never pass away, but remain in possession to all eternity. O may I live so as to obtain them!

Blessed Jesus, Son of the Father, adorable Saviour, divine Lord, to thee I come beseeching thee to continue to me thy heavenly benediction: continue to me, I beseech thee, that peace which is thy peculiar gift to thy faithful disciples. Such, O blessed Lord, I trust I am, though encompassed with sins and infirmities. O Lord, I love thee most fervently; my heart glows with gratitude towards thee. I am very zealous for thy honour, O King of kings, and Lord of lords: I love the poor for thy sake: I am ready to submit to the meanest offices towards those whom thou calledst thy brethren. O Lord, I beseech thee, cast me not off, but knit me to thee more powerfully. Lord, I will endeavour more and more to run the way of thy commandments. O grant me thy grace!

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I would detach my thoughts entirely from earthly objects, and fix them upon spiritual ones. I lift up my soul to heaven: that blessed place in which I hope hereafter to behold the glory of my heavenly Father: to see my beloved Saviour, to be admitted among the angelic hosts, to join in praise and adoration of the Supreme Being, the incomprehensible Trinity: to meet again the dear relatives, from whom death has for a time divided me.

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Who are these relatives? First, let me recollect a father: that dear parent to whom I am indebted for the first knowledge of Christianity, the first impression of piety. He lived and died a Christian. Of his eternal state, I can have no fears: his repentance was complete: his life had been exemplary: he was full of the hopes of immortality.

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Dear father! I remember thy pious injunctions to endeavour to work out my salvation. I *will* endeavour to work it out with fear and trembling, with fervency and zeal.

My mother too: she had many virtues! I hope she has found acceptance through the merits of Christ!

Next let me recollect a brother. Surely I shall find him also in the regions of bliss. From the dawn of life to the close of it, he lived in the constant practice of virtue and piety. Among the tender affections of his amiable heart, how great

was his love for me! and it was most sincerely returned. The loss of him was the first misfortune of my life, and I felt it deeply: though others of a later date have lessened the impression: but I have not forgotten my brother. O may our intercourse of tender fraternal affection be renewed in that blest region, where death has no farther power to separate us!

Three children have, I trust, found an entrance into the world of endless felicity. First, the dear little Decimus, the tenth branch of my beloved offspring: carried from the cradle to the grave before he was capable of committing actual sin, I trust his angel beholds the face of his father, which is in heaven. Dear infant, I nursed thee in thy earthly state, with tender care, with anxious solicitude: I dedicated thee, in the Sacrament of Baptism, to Christ the Saviour, to the ever-blessed Trinity. Thou didst never break the covenant made in thy name: thou couldst distinguish me as the object of thy affection, the instrument of good to thee. Perhaps thou wilt hereafter acknowledge me as such. My sorrow for thy loss was sharp and pungent, and the impression was lasting; nor did I quite cease to grieve for thee, till a new affliction called for my tears.

My sweet Annabella! How engaging were her gentle manners; how promising her disposition. What pangs did it cost me to part with her: as soon as I thought her in danger, she became the object of my tenderest solicitude: I could, I think,

have laid down my life to have saved her's: her loss was most deeply deplored. I think she will not be sorry to see again the parent who bore her, who brought her, through the power of God, into existence.

Dear John! thou, I am sure, wast fully sensible of my tender affection for thee. O how unwilling was I to part with thee, till I found the will of God required me to resign thee. Never could I have been reconciled to thy loss, but by the mercy of God, who poured the balm of consolation into my afflicted heart, and taught me to look beyond the grave. I have not lost thee for ever, my beloved child! No, we shall meet again. Perhaps thou, with my other dear children, and thy dear father, wilt welcome me to the realms of bliss, when the time of my departure arrives!

O transporting thought! I shall see again the husband of my heart, the father of my children, the tenderest, the best of friends! I shall see him, not in a state of suffering mortality, but crowned with immortality! O how my soul strives to spring towards the heavenly abodes, to pass the barriers which separate her from the spirits of those she held, and still holds so dear. But it cannot be, I must wait with patience the appointed time. The day will in God's own time arrive when all my virtuous and pious wishes will be accomplished. In the mean while let me strive, by unremitting diligence, to secure the high prize of my

calling, the crown of glory that fadeth not away. But though I cannot actually leave this world, I can at least join with the heavenly choir in praising God. What a blessed privilege: O foretaste of eternal joys!

O God, thou art *my God*, thou art *mine* as surely as thou art the God of the highest angel in heaven! My soul thirsteth for thee, O God; it longeth after thee. In the wilderness of this world, I long for thy refreshing grace: of this grace, my dear relatives, you may have had better experience; but whether it flows in a greater or smaller stream, God is the fountain of it, and this God is mine as well as your God. I look for thee, O God, in holiness: I behold the effects of thy power and glory in this world. You, my dear relatives, have a brighter vision of it: but whether in heaven above, or in the earth below, it is the power and glory of your God and my God. Thy loving kindness, O God, is better than the life itself! While I live, while I have any kind of existence, I will magnify thee, O God, in this manner, and lift up my soul to thee! My soul shall be satisfied even as it were with marrow and fatness, when I praise thee with thanksgivings. Have I not remembered thee upon my bed, and thought of thee when I was waking. Because thou hast been my helper, therefore under the shadow of thy wings shall I rejoice. My soul, O God, hangeth upon thee; thy right hand hath upholden me. I will lay me down in peace, and take my rest; for it is

thou, O Lord only, that makest me dwell in safety!

July 21. I was this day a little disturbed at Church, by the bad behaviour of the singing boys; but my mind was much edified, as I hope, by the two excellent discourses I heard from the pulpit: one of them by Mr. Harrison, in which he drew an admirable parallel between this world as a pilgrimage to heaven, and the wilderness in which the children of Israel took their pilgrimage towards the land of Canaan. I have long considered the world in this light. My hopes are fixed on the heavenly Canaan: O may they not be disappointed!

Aug. 4. On Tuesday last my dear little grandchild was baptized. Though I did not answer for her at the font, I will, while it pleases God to spare my life, watch over her, to see that she is educated according to the vow made in her name; and I humbly trust, that the prayers which I offered up for her on her baptismal day, both at the font and in my chamber, reached the throne of Grace, and found acceptance there. I feel at this instant a happy assurance that they will be accomplished; that my dear little grandchild will remain a member of Christ, the child of God, and an inheritor of the kingdom of heaven. Her heavenly Father, I trust, will guide her by his Spirit.

Aug. 11. Father of mercies, God of all power and goodness, with a thankful heart I acknowledge thy loving kindness to me, thy poor creature.

Though thou hast seen fit to take from me my late dear companion, thou hast not left me desolate. I can truly say, " a father to the fatherless, and a husband to the widow, is God in his holy habitations." O God, my gratitude, my love, my veneration, are great beyond expression: my heart is overcharged; my soul can scarcely contain the sentiments it feels towards thee, the greatest and the best of Beings! O divine Spirit, vouchsafe to take up thy abode with me, dwell in my heart, sanctify me, cast out every corrupt affection, increase in me every virtuous disposition, produce in me a heavenly temper. O divine Spirit, I yield myself to thy guidance, I desire to be led by thee! Leave me not, even for a moment, to myself, lest in that moment I go astray from the commandments of my heavenly Father, and commit sin.

Adorable and divine Saviour, eternal Son of God, thou who didst lay down thy life for mankind, receive, I beseech thee, the adoration of a soul truly sensible of the necessity and of the efficacy of the sacrifice which thou didst make for the redemption of the world. What should I have been, O Son of God, without this sacrifice: a poor, ruined, wretched creature. Lord, I can make thee no return, but love and gratitude: these can do thee no good: but thou hast appointed substitutes upon earth to receive them: the poor, the wretched, and the ignorant. These, Lord, thou hast vouchsafed to call thy brethren:

in that light I regard them; and for thy sake I will serve them with my best abilities, both of body and mind. Vouchsafe, Lord, to prosper my endeavours!

I render thee humble and hearty thanks, most gracious Father, for all thy mercies bestowed upon me, and all my dear children, and for every blessing we have enjoyed, and still continue to possess. Keep alive in our hearts a grateful sense of thy goodness, and incline us to promote the happiness of others, as far as lies in our power. Let not our hearts contract, but do thou expand them by the operation of thy Holy Spirit, that every virtue may find room to grow and increase. Lord, grant that every one of us may have a mind directed to eternal things, not fixed upon the insignificant trifles of this uncertain life. O vouchsafe to bless the means that are being used for the recovery of the health of that dear child, who is at this time afflicted with sickness. Enable us all to submit to the dispensations of thy Providence, whatever they may be. — — — — — — — —

O great, powerful, wonderful, good, gracious, merciful God, the greatest and best of Beings, I render thee, with a willing mind, the tribute of praise and thanksgiving. O Lord, thou art high above all creatures: nothing is worthy to be compared to thee: thou art great, and greatly to be praised. O how poor is this attempt to praise a Being of infinite perfections! What can I say of thee that is suitable to thy greatness. Lord, thy

divine attributes exceed all that the most exalted angel can ascribe to thee. I feel myself unworthy to speak thy praises: the theme is too vast, too transcendant for my weak powers. O may thy praise resound from every part of the boundless creation!

Aug. 18. I have had much anxiety this week about my youngest son; but I trust it will please God to spare him to me. I have not given way to anxiety, as upon former occasions; but have possessed my mind in patience, trusting in the goodness of God to direct all things for the best.

To thee, O gracious and merciful Father, I bow down my soul with humility and reverence! O Lord, I love and honour thee most sincerely. To be conscious of erring from thy commandments, fills me with shame and sorrow. I am jealous for the glory of thy name; I honour thy divine Son; I acknowledge the necessity of the aid of the Holy Spirit; I rely upon thy promise; I fear thy threatenings; I believe thy word; yet I am an unprofitable servant; I fall short of my duty continually: but thou knowest whereof I am made, thou rememberest that I am but dust. O let me, gracious Father, let me humbly plead the merits of my Saviour. Let the atonement he made for the sins of the world, suffice for me: for his sake blot out my transgressions; for his sake, continue to me thy heavenly benediction; for his sake admit me hereafter into thy heavenly kingdom. O di-

vine Saviour, intercede for me, thy poor, thy sinful, but yet faithful servant. Thou knowest that I love thee; I strive to feed thy lambs. O blessed Lord, accept my imperfect services: vouchsafe to strengthen me to do my duty. — —

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O what a world is this in which I live! Yet I will not complain of it, since it is but a probationary state, a passage to an eternal world, into which neither sin, sorrow, nor death can gain admittance. Since, with all its evils, there are blessings without number to be enjoyed; since, with all its disappointments, a crown of glory and immortal happiness may be gained in it.—O Lord, I long to be in the world of glory and endless felicity; yet I am content, nay, desirous, of continuing here for a season, not to enjoy the transient pleasures of mortality, but to do more good in my generation; to help to propagate the religion of my blessed Redeemer; to finish my work, which I have in hand. When this is done, I think I shall be ready to give up my accounts with joy.

When I think of the mercies that have been bestowed on me in my widowed state, my heart is filled with gratitude beyond expression. How shall I thank thee, O gracious Father, benignant Saviour, Holy Spirit, for the comforts I have received. Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits. O all ye angels of the Lord, praise ye the Lord, and magnify his name for ever. When shall I come, and appear before the

Lord; when shall I behold the glory of his presence; when shall I see my Saviour. O how my soul strives to spring upwards; What elevation of thought she feels: but her weak powers sink down oppressed by bodily infirmities. I will lay me down in peace, and take my rest; for it is thou, Lord, only, that makest me dwell in safety!

Sept. 1. My thoughts and hopes are fixed on heavenly things. I have less fear of death than I formerly had: indeed I have no fear of it at present; I consider it as a passage to a blessed eternity—as the kind messenger who will summon me to the presence of my God and Saviour; as the friend who will conduct me to my dear husband and my departed children. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; but, thanks be to God, who has given us the victory, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Blessed Redeemer, I have this day commemorated thy dying love; I have this day done as thou didst command, in remembrance of thee. Thou hast, I trust, received these humble petitions, which come not out of feigned lips. Adorable Saviour, how can I sufficiently thank thee for the comfort, the satisfaction, the delight, I have experienced in receiving the sacrament of thy body and blood. Blessed Lord, keep me thine evermore. Thou knowest that I love thee. Adorable Saviour! what honour hast thou put upon thy handmaid!

My soul doth magnify the Lord, my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour: for thou hast regarded my lowliness; thou hast graciously made me instrumental to the propagation of thy holy religion. O extacy of delight! transcendant happiness! foretaste of angelic bliss! My soul seeks to soar above humanity. Inhabitants of heaven, it would fly to your abodes! O that I could serve my God as you do, perfectly and incessantly. But it cannot be: thanks be to God, that I am enabled to do it at all!

While I am thus aspiring to join the angelic host, let me remember what *they* are, and what I am myself. O God of mercies, what a difference is there between me, a poor, sinful mortal, and the lowest angel! But it will not always be so. No, I shall not always grovel on this earth: I shall pass the barriers of mortality; I shall ascend to the heavenly mansion; I shall approach the throne of God; I shall sing the praises of the Lamb; I shall join the blessed multitude of all kindreds and all nations; for my Saviour has paid the price of my redemption. I believe in him, I trust in his all-sufficient sacrifice; I will continue faithful to death, his grace assisting me, and I shall finally receive the crown of glory! Blessed Jesus! that I may not be disappointed in the exalted hopes I have formed, vouchsafe to keep and guide me through this world of temptations. O let not Satan approach to hurt me. I hate and abhor all evil works, with all my power. But

without the aid of the Holy Spirit, I can do nothing; of that I am fully sensible. It is my earnest desire, it is my determined purpose, to do the will of my heavenly Father, and to walk in the way of his commandments. O Father of mercies, thou knowest the inmost recesses of my heart: thou knowest how truly sorry I am, that I should ever do any thing to offend thee. How desirous I am to amend whatever is amiss in my disposition and conduct. I most humbly beseech thee, of thine infinite goodness, to pardon all my sins, for Jesus Christ's sake. O Lord, if it be thy will to put a period to my mortal life before the morning light, receive my soul into happiness, for Jesus Christ's sake. If it be thy will to continue my existence here, vouchsafe to strengthen me for the performance of the work, which is the delight and joy of my life. O Lord, while I live, may I be useful to my fellow creatures!

And now that I have prayed for myself, suffer me, O gracious Father, to intercede with thee for my children. Shower down thy heavenly benediction upon them, gracious Father! O let them continue to be *thy* children. Hear the petition of the widow, who cries to thee for these dear children, who have now no earthly father. — —

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I will magnify thee, O God, my strength, for thou hast sustained my mind under the severest trials of life! thou hast very often made my widowed heart to sing for joy! O Lord, my God, I

cried unto thee, and thou didst heal me! sing praises unto the Lord, O ye saints of his, and give thanks unto him for a remembrance of his holiness, for his wrath endureth but the twinkling of an eye; heaviness may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning. The word of the Lord is true, and all his works are faithful; I will always give thanks unto the Lord, his praise shall ever be in my mouth; my soul shall make her boast of the Lord, the humble shall hear thereof and be glad. O praise the Lord with me, and let us magnify his name together; like as the hart desireth the water brooks, so longeth my soul after God; my soul is athirst for God, yea even for the living God; when shall I come to appear before the presence of God.

Now that I am retired to my chamber, and am still, I can hold communion with my God, which is sweet and comfortable to my soul! let me examine my heart; it is open to the eye of the Lord, my secret sins are in the light of his countenance. I need not tell an all-seeing God, what I have done, for he knows not only my words and actions, but the motives from which they all proceeded. But it is notwithstanding my duty to confess them; and my heavenly Father knows I do not wish to dissemble or cloak them before his face. O Lord, assist me in searching my spirit! bring my sins to remembrance, O blessed Lord, that I may acknowledge them, and implore thy pardon.

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Merciful God! with my family I have prayed with fervour of spirit and collection of thought. O may this service find acceptance. O Lord, how delightful is the exercise of prayer and thanksgiving. Adorable Saviour! Friend of my soul, vouchsafe to continue to me and mine thy love and compassion; thy guidance and intercession; on thy merits I rely, not on my own imperfect prayers. To thee I look for Salvation; forsake me not, O blessed Lord; I love thee, O Lord my God, with my whole heart; I would not be separated from thy love for all that this world, and thousands of such worlds could give; O how transcendantly desirable are the blessings of thy kingdom! to them my hopes aspire! on them my heart is fixed! blessed Lord, keep me thine evermore, and not only me, but my whole progeny. O Shepherd of Israel, keep them in thy flock; let not Satan snatch them out of thy hand. — — —

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I praise thee, O God, I acknowledge thy transcendant excellence; I praise thee, O God, I acknowledge thine infinite compassion; I praise thee, O God, I acknowledge thee as my greatest benefactor, as the Author of all the good things I enjoy, as the Giver of life! I praise thee, O God, as the compassionate lover of souls! O Lord, may thy name be praised from the rising up of the sun till the going down of the same! — — —

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I have been able to pursue my studies with tolerable comfort, and I hope success. I trust it will be in my power to write what may help to guard the rising generation of the poor, from the false doctrine which is so industriously propagated by the enemies of Christianity. The more I study the Scriptures, the more I am convinced that the tenets of the Church of England are perfectly agreeable to the principles of revealed religion, and I am more zealously attached to them than ever. — — — — — — — —

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I have had no misfortune to deplore, yet my spirits have been greatly depressed. Regret for the loss of my dear husband, has returned with great force; I have felt a considerable renewal of grief; I would not wish to forget him. It is not I think required of me, but I must strive to possess my mind in patience. — — —

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I feel myself better than I have been for several days, but my complaints often make me apprehensive of sudden death. Thanks be to God, these thoughts are not accompanied with any dread of an hereafter: though I shall die with many imperfections on my head, die when I will, I trust, I shall die with a well grounded hope of pardon and acceptance through Jesus Christ, the all sufficient Saviour of the world. Yes, blessed Saviour! I humbly trust thou wilt not forsake thy poor, but faithful servant, in her last moments; O Lord, I love

thee with the highest veneration and gratitude; I value thy favour beyond all worldly treasures; I had rather be the meanest of thy disciples, than to sit in the seat of princes without belonging to thee. O the transcendant, the inestimable honour of being a Christian! my soul is full of divine love! blessed Lord, vouchsafe to knit me to thee! keep me as thy member; preserve me from the temptations of Satan; wean me from the vanities of this life; I trust, O Lord, I am abstracted from them in a great measure; give me a heavenly temper in all things; let me be constantly under the influence of the Holy Spirit; O that I could in all things do the will of my heavenly Father! but I often act contrary to it; intercede for me gracious Lord, that I may be forgiven. O dear Redeemer, I repent of all my sins; I have a true faith in thee; grant me thy grace! I lift up my soul to thee; I open my heart to receive the Holy Spirit; O that it were worthy of such a heavenly guest. Thou, O blessed Spirit, thou alone canst purify and cleanse it; may it be renewed unto holiness? My soul seeks to burst the barrier of flesh and take its flight to celestial abodes; methinks I behold the Son of God sitting on his throne of glory; O no! my imagination cannot reach so far. I long to behold thee, blessed Jesus! but the veil of humanity obscures the desirable vision; I long to hear the song of Angels; I long to join my voice with theirs, but it cannot be! the crawling insect cannot soar! my intellectual powers

must be greatly strengthened and expanded, before they are equal to such exertions. But I can praise God upon earth; I can love my Saviour here. O God Almighty, I praise thee with a thankful heart for all thy goodness to me, and my dear family. How graciously hast thou comforted my widowed heart: O Lord, accept these tears of gratitude, too large for expression! God of all consolation, what am I that thou shouldest so regard me? O God, I adore and praise thee for all the blessings of this life; and for the inestimable hope of happiness in thy eternal kingdom. Can it be possible that an infinitely great and powerful Creator, can love an insignificant creature like me? that he can suffer such an one as me to approach his glorious Majesty? O yes, blessed Jesus! for thy sake, the Father of the Universe regards even me with paternal love. For thy dear sake, he will admit me to his glorious kingdom! Lord, at present I am defiled with my sins; but wash me in thy precious blood, and I shall be whiter than snow; thy righteousness is the garment in which I must be clothed when I go to join, as I trust, I shall do, the blest inhabitants of Heaven! O while it is the Father's will that I should continue an inhabitant of earth, vouchsafe to employ me, blessed Lord; I will labour with zeal and affection as far as I am able. — — — — — — — —

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Sept. 27. I have been occupied principally in continuing that work by which I hope to contribute towards the propagation of the Gospel of my blessed, my adorable Saviour. I cannot recollect what I have done amiss, but no doubt I have left undone many things that I ought to have done, and done many things that I ought not to have done. O that I could call them every one to mind, that I might acknowledge and confess them to my heavenly Father! But the terrors of the last night, and the comforts by which they were mitigated occupy my whole thoughts: let me record them, that I may not lose the remembrance of them. About one o'clock this morning we were all awakened from sleep by a dreadful thundering at the door, followed by a cry of fire. Nay, we were desired to rise as quickly as possible, lest we should be burnt in our beds! Of this, thanks to the goodness of Providence! there was no danger, the fire was at a distance from our dwelling, no lives were endangered by it, but those of our poor horses. Their sufferings, I fear, had been of some continuance before we were awakened; with all possible dispatch, with strength of body and presence of mind, suited to the occasion, my sons flew to their rescue, and hoped they had preserved their lives, but it proved otherwise; some are dead, and others dying: six, I fear, will fall victims to this conflagration: our neighbours soon assembled; engines arrived; every exertion was made, and by the divine blessing, on the means

used, the progress of the flames was stopped. I would not be presumptuous, but I think, I see the hand of Providence in the combination of happy circumstances which prevented the raging of the fire. The air was perfectly still, not a breath to blow the flames; water in abundance was at hand; a quantity of hay, which was to have been carried the day before into the stables, was delayed. We were awakened time enough to save some of our poor beasts, and some of our property, which was valuable to us. The loss we are likely to sustain is that of our horses; the only anxiety we at present have, is for those which still survive in pain and misery, and for the effect which the fright and fatigue may have upon some of our family and domestics, who were assistant at the extinguishing of the fire! such is our present trial!—what should be our sentiments and behaviour under it? Surely thankfulness of heart is our duty. — — —

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Because thou hast inclined thine ear to me, I will call unpon thee, O Lord, as long as I live. The fears of death compassed me; I found trouble and sorrow; then called I unto thee, O Lord, but with distraction of thought; I could say no more than, Lord, I beseech thee, deliver me and my family: how great was thy goodness to me! return then to thy rest, O my soul, for the Lord hath dealt bountifully with thee. Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; yea, our God is merciful. He hath delivered us from death, he hath delivered

my eyes from those tears which would have flowed, had any of my dear children been lost by this fire, what should I render unto the Lord for all the benefits that he hath done unto me? Alas! I have nothing to offer. But I will receive the cup of Salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord, beseeching him to accept me through the merits of my blessed Redeemer. O Lord, with all my infirmities, I trust, I am truly thy servant, thine handmaid; and that thou hast loosed my soul from the bonds of death and sin; I will as soon as I can go to thy table, O Lord, and there will I offer my vows unto thee in the presence of the congregation—in the courts of thy house, O Lord! — — — — — — — —
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What resolutions ought I to make in consequence of the misfortune that has befallen us, and the mercy that has been graciously afforded?

I resolve by the assistance of Divine Grace, to moderate my desires after the things of this world, to bear the loss of property, which God has seen fit that we should sustain without murmuring; to retrench every superfluous expence in order to repair it. To show my thankfulness for God's preserving goodness by an encrease of alacrity in every duty of religion, particularly in charity to the poor as far as my ability extends; if my means are contracted, I will at least retain the desire to do good, and endeavour to bear without repining the disappointment of the hopes I had entertained,

that they would encrease as occasions and solicitations, mutiply upon me. — — — — —

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God of all power, wisdom, goodness, and mercy, I desire with a grateful heart to repeat my acknowledgments and thanksgivings, for thy great mercy, vouchsafed to me and my dear children in the last night; and for all the benefits and blessings thou hast bestowed upon us, from the first moment of our existence to the present hour. I once more make an humble resignation of myself, and all my worldly and spiritual concerns to the disposal of thy Providence; and most earnestly implore for me and mine, the guidance of thy grace. — — — — — — — —

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At this instant when I wish to raise my soul to God, I feel a depression which sinks it down to the earth. Let me however try to search my heart, and see what have been my principal offences since I last examined it.

" Keep thy heart with all diligence," says Solomon, " for out of it are the issues of life." O that I could keep it free from every sin, from every blemish!

I am thoroughly convinced of the deadly nature of sin, and I can truly say, that I abhor all manner of wickedness so that I would not deliberately commit any offence against the Commandments of my heavenly Father, for I know they are founded upon justice, mercy, and goodness. No,

blessed Lord! far be it from me, thy devoted servant to give my mind to habitual wickedness! yet, alas! I am often surprised into sin; my infirmities are many and great. I do not know that Satan has power over me; I trust, he has not; for I abhor his works; I am not his slave. O divine Lord, most earnestly do I desire to follow thy blessed example: I will study it daily. Most earnestly do I desire to be led by the Holy Spirit: had I but the power, I would cast out every desire that is tinctured with corruption. But what can I do for myself? To thee I flee, blessed Saviour, help me to know myself. What is there in me, that my heavenly Father disapproves? O let me know my secret faults, they are not hid from from thee, though my conscience brings them not to my remembrance.

Father of mercies, God of life, Author of all my comforts, thou knowest that as a child loves the tenderest of parents, I love thee, that I feel my dependance upon thee for all the blessings and comforts of life. That I fear to offend thee, that I grieve from the bottom of my soul when I feel conscious of having erred from thy commandments.

O merciful Father, there is nothing in the whole universe which thy Almighty power has created, that I desire in comparison of thee. Precious are the moments which are thus employed in holding communion with thee, my Lord, and my God! O with Heaven in the view of my mind's eye, how

trifling do the things of this life appear! my soul rises above them, it seeks the society of Angels, I look towards my heavenly inheritance. The crown of Glory is before me; I long to hear the harps of the Angelic choir; I long to behold the glory of my heavenly Father; I long to see my adorable, my beloved Saviour. O what a prospect is before me; though obscured by this veil of flesh, it is glorious! it is inviting! I would not forego the hopes of immortal bliss, for all that thousands of such worlds as this can give. Death, I will not fear thee. If I can but preserve in my dying hour, the hopes I now possess, thou wilt not be to me a King of Terrors. No, I shall resign my life with joy. I shall give my body to the dust with the most perfect resignation. O how enchanting are the *thoughts* of heavenly joys! what then wilt be the *fruition* of them? Perhaps for endless ages I shall be occupied in viewing the wonderful works of God. If I am so enchanted with the beauties of nature in this lower world, what will be my admiration and delight, when I get above the skies, and view the glories of Heaven? But I expect greater felicity than this, in the celestial abodes. There I hope to feel devotion in its utmost energy. O if the slight fervours I now feel are so delightful, what will be my happiness when I see my heavenly Father, even as I am seen? When purified from every defilement, I can approach him without fear; when I can behold the Saviour, who died for mankind; when Angels shall hail me as

their fellow servant. O blessed Saviour, merciful Redeemer, confirm these hopes in me, I most humbly and earnestly beseech thee. Keep me in the right path that I may never forfeit them. I am content to labour, and to suffer whatever may be necessary to prepare me for the change, I so ardently desire. Lord, I am thy devoted servant. I have made it the great business of my life, to inculcate the divine truths of thy inestimable Gospel among the young and ignorant. I am anxious to contribute towards preserving my country from the contagion of those corrupt principles which have ruined a neighbouring nation. O Lord, how dreadful it is to think of the horrid wickedness that is practiced there! may the Providence of the Almighty Governor of the universe give success to our arms, and save us from our enemies! O may Providence preserve our King, and his family, from the like dreadful calamities which have fallen upon those of France. How is that once mighty nation become a den of infernal monsters! professed Atheists! Lord, when I think of the judgments thou hast sent on the nations of old, I expect with awe and reverence a like catastrophe to that proud city which now exalts itself against Omnipotence. May the lesson it affords, be read by the surrounding nations, and while thy judgments are on the earth may they learn righteousness! — — — — — — — — —

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O merciful Father, my soul reposes its firm trust in thee! thou knowest what is best for me; on thee I rest my cares; thou wilt help me to bear whatever thou seest fit to lay upon me; I will moderate my desires. One desire only, I am unwilling to relinquish that of doing good. O Lord, the fear of being liberal beyond what my present circumstances admit of, alone restrains my hand from contributing to the relief of all who apply to me; thou knowest my desire; if it be thy good pleasure, encrease the means, and I will be a faithful steward of thy bounty. If on the contrary, thou seest fit to deny me this honour which I so earnestly desire; make me contented under the disappointment, and give the same inclination to others whose ability is greater.

O Lord, I beseech thee, of thy infinite goodness to continue to me and my dear family, thy heavenly benediction; continue to bring them up in thy faith and fear; awaken them to a sense of every deviation from their duty; give them repentance, and strength to fulfil every good and pious purpose. O may they all be children and heirs of thy glorious promises, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

I humbly commit to thy all-wise disposal most merciful and gracious Father, all my concerns, spiritual and temporal, beseeching thee to grant to me and mine, thy fatherly protection, counsel, and guidance. May thy peace shed its benign influence over our hearts and minds; may we finally

obtain possession of what we can now only hope for! may thy name, O God, be glorified for endless ages!

I will end the Sabbath of the Lord with an indulgence, which I hope is not unsuitable to the blessings which the Creator pronounced upon the day of rest. I will meditate a little while upon the excellencies of my late dear husband. O he was, or my fond heart deceives me, a man of uncommon virtue. For purity of mind I never saw his equal; he was master of his passions, he abhorred all kinds of impurity and wickedness; his benevolence was universal, not confined to relations and friends, but embracing even enemies: not contented with forgiving those who had injured him, he was anxious to do them good. O what comfort does it afford to my widowed heart, to recollect the words which he several times repeated before his death; he thanked God there was not a person upon earth to whom he would not do good if it were in his power. I think as he left the world in such a disposition he must have found acceptance from the God who shows mercy to the merciful; who forgives those who forgive others, who will admit the pure in heart to see him.

How should I grieve, if I thought that death was as the atheists of the present day assert, an eternal sleep. No, my beloved husband! I have better hopes for thee and myself; for all that serve the Lord; we shall have a joyful summons to a glorious resurrection. We shall see the glory of

the Lord coming in the clouds. We shall give an account of our talents, and receive a reward for the improvement of them; not of *merit* indeed, for the best of us are unprofitable servants, but of grace. Blessed hour! when wilt thou arrive? In God's time may it be!

Merciful and gracious Father, Lord of Heaven and Earth! I earnestly desire to pay unto thy divine Majesty the homage that is due from me, a sinful creature, created by thy power, and redeemed by thy mercy. But I cannot raise my mind to that pitch of devotion which is suitable to such a service. How amiable is thy dwelling-place, O Lord of Hosts! my soul hath a longing desire to enter into those blest abodes where thou, O Lord, shewest forth thy glory. O Lord the living God I long for thee! As the hart panteth for the water brooks, even so longeth my soul after thee, O God! O divine spirit, proceeding from the Father and the Son, descend on me, I beseech thee. Cast out of my heart all that is offensive to my heavenly Father. Purify it, sanctify it! Make it the temple of thy holy residence. Kindle the flame of devotion in my languid soul! May it send forth a sweet smelling savour pleasing to my God!

O that my soul could disengage itself from every earthly thing and rise to God! I aspire to the perfection of angels; I feel myself a helpless mortal; not that I am discontented with my present state, on the contrary, I am thankful that by

Divine Providence, I am a human creature, but with the glorious promises of the Gospel in view, I long to get the better of the infirmities of my mortal nature; yet it cannot be; my weakness will remain till this frail body shall be changed for a spiritual body; but even now wash me in thy precious blood, O Lord Jesus, and I shall be whiter than snow, clothe me with thy righteousness and I shall be pleasing in the sight of my heavenly Father!

O Lord, how am I overcome at this moment with the delightful idea that the Father of the Universe extends his love to me; one of the millions of sinners which thou, O blessed Jesus, hast redeemed. How comfortable is the thought that the Creator of the world looks down with complacency upon my humble labours for the good of the rising generation: that the Saviour who died for me and all mankind approves my zeal for the honour of his name; and accepts my humble endeavours to testify my gratitude to him by doing what I am able to do for those he vouchsafes to call his brethren. Blessed Jesus, if thou hadst not directed thy disciples to regard the poor as thy substitutes, how would it have been possible for me to have given any proof of the gratitude that swells my heart, when I think of the redemption thou hast wrought for me; and hast thou then blessed Saviour, provided for me a mansion in thy heavenly kingdom? O yes thou hast! and I shall come to thee when my life is ended. What will

be my delight when I arrive there! Angels, perhaps, will welcome my arrival in the blest abodes; among the blest inhabitants, I trust, I shall find the husband of my heart, the children of my fond affection. I shall certainly see my Redeemer; I shall see my God! Freed from the infirmities of the flesh I shall then be able to offer a more perfect service; I shall be able to sing the praises of the Lamb; when, O God, shall I come to appear before thee? — — — — — — —

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I have now, thanks to God for it! performed the duty of family prayer with fervent devotion. I return to my meditations. If I aspire to enter the blest abodes, let me ever keep in mind what is required of me, while I remain in this world; let me make good resolutions, and pray for divine grace to enable me to keep them. I resolve to serve God, with all my heart; to pray to him daily and nightly; to keep his sabbaths; to obey his commandments; to submit my will to his; may divine grace strengthen me to do so! I resolve to follow the example of my blessed Redeemer to the best of my poor ability; to keep true to my Christian profession; to prove myself a faithful disciple; to honour my Saviour in the world's eye by taking the blessed Sacrament in remembrance of him; to obey all his divine injunctions respecting universal charity and benevolence to the poor, both young and old; to enlarge my gifts of charity if my worldly means increase.

May the grace of God enable me to do all this, and every thing else that my divine and beloved Lord requires of me, that I may give up my accounts with joy when he comes to judge the world, and call his faithful servants to himself!

I resolve to pray for the aid of the Holy Spirit, and to yield my mind to his heavenly guidance. O may the same blessed Spirit help me to accomplish what without him I can only design! as a parent I resolve to set my children an example of a godly life: to encourage those who, I trust, are doing the same to perseverance; to supply to the best of my power to all my dear children the loss of their dear, tender, indulgent, provident father. May the grace of God accompany my endeavours!

I resolve to be kind to all my relations; to live in peace with all mankind as far as it depends upon me; to be charitable to the poor of all denominations as far as I can. May God in his infinite goodness keep alive my good purposes, and by his Providence bless me with the means to relieve all whom that Providence may direct to me!

O merciful God, enable me, I most humbly beseech thee, to keep these resolutions, and to do whatever thou shalt see fit to require of me in every relation or connection of life. — — —

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The demands upon my charity increase daily. I can truly say that I wish to relieve *all* the distressed objects that apply to me, but I cannot do

it. O how painful is it to turn away one's face from a poor man! Lord, I grieve that I am obliged to do it. How great is the delight of clearing away the clouds of sorrow, and bringing the sun-shine of joy upon a human countenance! — — — — — — — —

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I am not ambitious, I hope I am not, to have great possessions, so that I can but enjoy peace, and be liberal to the necessitous. I wish to be moderate in all things; this world is not an abiding-place; we seek a city whose builder and maker is God; our treasure is in heaven, there let our hearts be also.

O merciful Father, I desire to detach myself from the world, while I lift up my soul unto thee in humble prayer and thanksgiving. I bow my heart before thee, O God of all power, wisdom, and goodness; transcendently great and glorious Being! the thought of thine infinite perfections overpowers my weak faculties; I am lost in wonder, admiration, and gratitude! Creator of thousands of worlds! Of millions of intelligent creatures! who can describe thy excellencies; Preserver of all that thou hast created! who can tell of thy goodness; and may I, a poor wretched sinner, presume to address thee? thanks to thy infinite compassion! poor, and weak, and sinful as I am, I may approach thee; I may with confidence of acceptance seek thy favour and loving kindness. Merciful Father, I am sensible of thy

love! O how tender, how compassionate art thou! I have offended, I know my offences are numberless; I confess my sins with sorrow and confusion of face, though I humbly trust, thou wilt forgive me for thy dear Son's sake. Blessed Saviour, to thy intercession I trust for deliverance from the sad consequences of sin. I will not give way to desponding fears; I will rejoice in thy salvation: yes, blessed Redeemer, I will rejoice and be glad in the hopes which I have of obtaining through thine all-sufficient merits, a glorious resurrection to eternal bliss. O how transporting the thought! my soul longs to enter the heavenly abodes! O that it may acquire a heavenly temper, while it is a prisoner in the flesh! What are the trifles of this life to one who is a candidate for eternity?

Father of mercies, and God of all consolation, I thank thee with my whole heart for all thy bountiful goodness bestowed upon me from the first moment of my existence to the present time. I thank thee, gracious God! for giving to me, my late dear husband and our children, the knowledge of salvation. I thank thee for all the temporal blessings thou wast pleased to bestow upon us; and for the consolation thou didst graciously afford in times of affliction. O my God, gratitude is all I have to offer, and that I present with sincerity and truth. Look at my heart, O God, which is open before thee, and which now overflows with gratitude and veneration. I cannot express the feelings of my heart. It pants for thee, the

living God! O when shall I come and appear before God? when shall I behold the glory of his majesty? when shall I see my divine Saviour? when shall I join the heavenly choir? when shall I enter the abodes of bliss? Adorable Saviour! I trust, when my appointed time comes, I shall meet death without terror. Thou wilt support me in my dying moments! perhaps heaven may then be open to my view! O how I love to think of *heaven!* surely the last trumpet will be a joyful sound to me; I hope, blessed Lord, I shall have no occasion to flee away from thy presence; I hope I need not fear to stand before thy judgment-seat. Thou wilt cover my sins and infirmities with the robe of thy righteousness. Thou wilt wash me in thy precious blood, and I shall be whiter than snow. I shall be justified through thy redemption. I shall, I hope and trust, meet thee in the air! *ambition*, why wilt thou grovel on the *earth* when such glorious objects invite thee to the *skies*. Pride, why wilt thou covet the honours and distinctions of a vain transitory world, when everlasting honours are to be found by *humility* in heaven.

Heavenly Father! gracious God! I earnestly purpose to lead a godly life, following thy commandments as long as thou shalt see fit to permit me to remain upon earth.

Blessed Jesus! I earnestly and sincerely purpose to be thy true and faithful disciple unto my life's end.

Spirit of grace and sanctification! I yield myself to thy divine guidance. Above all things I desire to do the will of God, and follow the example of my blessed Redeemer. — — — —

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O God, who is worthy to be compared with thee! praised be thy name from the rising up of the sun to the going down of the same. As long as I live will I serve thee, O Lord; while I have any being I will adore and worship thee. Great, almighty, transcendently glorious being! I bow down my soul before thee with awe, veneration, gratitude, and love! Father of Mercies! I render thee humble and hearty thanks for all the blessings spiritual and temporal which thou hast bestowed upon me, my late dear husband, and all our dear children. Above all things, O Lord, I thank thee for the hopes thou hast afforded us of everlasting happiness through the satisfaction of thy beloved Son Jesus Christ.

Salvation, and glory, and honour, and praise, be ascribed by all intelligent creatures to the Lord our God! Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty! just and true are thy ways, O king of saints!

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory. Thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created. Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty! Praised and adored, exalted and magnified be thy

great and glorious name for ever and ever! Amen.

I will lay me down and take my rest, for it is thou, Lord, only that makest me dwell in safety.

Nov. 10. I am very anxious for a dear girl who is going this week to leave me in order to take a long journey. She will certainly be absent many months. I may die before she returns, or it may please God to take her away, and she may never return to bless my eyes with the sight of her, to comfort my heart by her dutiful attention. This care I will presume to cast upon God, for I consent to her leaving me only because my reason tells me it is best to do so, and religion forbids it not. Instead of indulging fears I will cherish hopes. We may meet again here; if not, I think we shall certainly meet hereafter. The heavenly Jerusalem is the country to which both of us are travelling, though we may be separated for a short time in our journey to it. One may arrive at that delightful place sooner, but the first will be ready to welcome the arrival of the last. I will not anticipate the evils of this life. I cannot govern events, but I trust that the Disposer of all events is my father and my friend. Transporting thought, I have the Almighty for my father and my friend. O Lord, I will fear no evil; no, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; thy rod and thy staff shall comfort me. I will trust to thy goodness for the preserva-

tion of my children; I will rely on thy fatherly goodness, and possess my soul in patience. —

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O Lord, I humbly recommend to thy fatherly care the dear child I am likely this week to part from. Take her, I beseech thee, under the protection of thy good providence; preserve her from all perils and dangers; prosper her journey; enable her to do good; to give comfort and assistance to others; and O preserve her in the ways of religion and virtue.

Lord, I beseech thee to give thy heavenly benediction to me, and every one of my beloved family. Let us serve thee faithfully upon earth, and receive us after death into thine eternal kingdom.

O praise the Lord of glory, praise him in the height; praise him for his goodness, praise him for his mercy! Praises a thousand times repeated, cannot express his excellency! O how feeble the attempts of a poor weak mortal to speak thy praises, thou greatest and best of Beings! Let the sentiments of my heart, which thou canst see and interpret, speak for me, gracious Lord, heavenly Father, Lord of all power and glory! — —

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O what did I suffer a few days since when I passed the place of interment of my dear husband; the place where his precious remains are deposited; the place where I hope my dust will be mixed

with his when my pilgrimage on earth is at an end; the place from whence I hope we shall rise to a glorious resurrection. Where will our souls be in the mean while? God alone knows. Thou, dear husband, hast resigned thine. Mine has not yet passed the Jordan; but I look beyond it! I see the heavenly hills! I have a faint idea of heavenly glory. I long to see my King and my God; my Saviour and Redeemer. The angelic choir! O extacy of thought! Transcendent goodness, to give such hopes to sinful mortals! O God, my heart, my heart is ready. I will be talking of thy salvation from day to day. Adorable divine Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of the Father, I honour thee with all my heart and soul; I desire to approve myself thy faithful disciple. Continue to me, I beseech thee, thy grace and favour; leave me not to myself; stretch out thy hand, or I shall sink under the waves of this world. Lord, while I live, employ me in thy service, which is dearer to me than life itself.

Almighty and merciful Father, I desire to humble myself before thee as becomes a sinner. I know, O Lord, that all sin is an offence to the purity of thy divine nature, and that, as a sinner, I am unworthy to approach thee; but, O Lord God, the race of sinners to which I belong have been redeemed by thy dearly beloved Son; for his sake, I beseech thee, to pardon me. Lord Jesus, may thy intercession prevail for me! for at this time I am not able to pray for myself; nor would

my most fervent devotions have any claim to acceptance without thee. On thy merits, O blessed Lord, is my dependance placed. Ponder my words, O Lord, consider my meditation. O hearken unto the voice of my calling, languid and feeble as it is, yet hearken unto the voice of my calling, my King and my God! for the aid of thy spirit I now pray unto thee. O kindle the flame of devotion in this cold heart of mine, and then my voice shalt thou hear betimes; early in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up. I will not take pleasure in wickedness, for, O Lord, I hope to dwell hereafter with thee. I will not be foolish. I will not love vanity, for thou hatest them that do so. I will go to thine house, depending upon the multitude of thy mercies, and in thy fear will I worship in thy holy temple.

I have done with the vanities of life, but I can find enjoyment still in this transitory state. I have here good, dutiful, children. I have employment of the most satisfactory kind. I have the word of God to instruct me in the ways of holiness, and to solace my mind in affliction. I have the aid of the Holy Spirit to guide me. I have a sense of thy love, compassionate Saviour, and of the tender mercy of my heavenly Father for thy sake. I have in general thy peace which passeth all understanding, and I have the hopes of immortal happiness in heaven hereafter! but in the world to come, I shall, I trust, enjoy all that

is truly desirable in infinitely greater perfection than can be felt by mortals. — — — —

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O God of all power, wisdom, goodness, glory, and majesty, I humble myself before thee under a sense of unworthiness. O Lord, I most earnestly deplore the sins and offences which I have called to mind, and I sincerely desire to avoid the repetition of them. A candidate for heaven, I blush to think that the trifles of this life should still have any allurements for me. I grieve that I should ever be tempted, even for a moment, to offend against one of thy commandments. I implore thy forgiveness, gracious Father, for the reluctance I have felt to quit this mortal life, though I well know I could not die without thy express will that I should do so. It is thou alone that killest and makest alive. O, almighty Father, not in opposition to thy blessed will should I desire to live even a day or an hour. To die, I think, would be gain to me, for I hope thou wouldst graciously admit me into thy heavenly kingdom. Yet, O Lord, I cling to this mortal life, because I have not yet finished my work. O that it might be thy pleasure to spare me till that is completed. But, O God! thy will, not mine, be done! I desire to resign to thine all-wise disposal, myself, my soul and body, my children, my goods, all that belongs to me, I desire to resign to thy fatherly protection the lambs which it is my pleasure to feed, only keep them, blessed Saviour, in thy fold, and

raise up for them a zealous instructor in my stead.

Dec. 22. Another week has been added to my life; another sabbath has been added to my days of mortality. I am again retired to my closet to commune with my own heart and be still. Let me look back upon the space of time that has past since I took a retrospect of my religious conduct. Through the indulgent mercy of God, I have been enabled to employ myself on my work which has driven away many an anxious care that would have assailed me. — — — — — — —

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Greatest and most glorious of Beings! Eternal and infinite Creator! sole Governor of a Universe! how transcendently great art thou! how boundless thy power, thy goodness, thy mercy, thy wisdom, thy holiness! how glorious thy divine Majesty. O God, the Lord Jehovah, the God of Israel, thou alone, O Father, with thine eternal Son and Spirit, art worthy to be praised and had in honour! O that thy praise may resound from every part of thy boundless creation! O that it may sound from the harps of archangels! All thy works praise thee, O God. Thine infinite perfection is displayed in every one of them. O how wonderful art thou, great God of Hosts! Father of all things! my soul is now stretched forth towards thee; yet how feeble is my praise! O God, vouchsafe to accept my humble tribute of adoration and thanksgiving; the best I can now

offer! O how my soul longs to join with angels in more exalted strains; but it cannot be. What must the joys of heaven be, if the thought of God can raise a weak mortal to such exalted pleasure! my soul is athirst for God, for the living God! when shall I come to appear before God! when shall I behold his glorious presence! when shall I see the benignant face of my divine Saviour! Blessed Lord, when shall I hear thy glorious voice? when wilt thou come to gather together thy redeemed. O that I may be found among that blessed flock. Lord, I will serve thee upon earth. I will be faithful till death! O keep for me the crown of life. Provide for me a heavenly mansion. Dear Lord, grant me thy grace that I may overcome the fear of death. Death where is thy sting? Grave where is thy victory? To me, I trust, thou wilt prove a conductor to the realms of joy. My Redeemer hath disarmed thee, he hath blunted thy dart. Thou mayst lay my body in the silent grave, but what can reach the immortal spirit! That shall wing its way to the abodes of bliss!

The trumpet will sound, the dead will arise, this mortal shall put on immortality, this corruptible shall put on incorruption, this vile body shall be changed; I shall rise above the clouds; I shall leave this scene of mortality and woe; I shall go where neither sorrow, nor pain, nor sin, nor death can follow.

To the protection of the ever adorable Trinity I humbly recommend myself and all who are near and dear to me, now and for evermore. Amen.

Mr. H——, the writer of the following letter was a respectable tradesman, whose wife had been extremely desirous of having the benefit of Mrs. Trimmer's conversation and advice, during a lingering illness, which terminated, as was expected, in her death.

TO MRS. TRIMMER.

Madam,

I should feel myself wanting in gratitude, if I neglected longer to return you my sincere acknowledgements for your goodness and attention to my late wife, I am prompted in thus addressing you by her most particular request, the happiness and comfort she experienced after taking the Sacrament and other conversations with you, made a suitable impression on her mind, and enabled her to leave this world in such a manner as afforded me some consolation for her loss, accept, Madam, the tribute of thanks which by her desire, and my own duty I return you. Your exemplary goodness and condescension to persons afflicted with sickness must be felt most by those who are most in need of such assistance, that you, Madam, may be blessed with health and long life, to be of the same essential service to other afflicted families, you have been to mine is the prayer of,

Madam,

Your most obedient,

Humble servant,

S. H——.

TO MR. H———.

Mr. H——,

I am very much obliged to you, for your letter which gave me heartfelt satisfaction. My earnest wish is whilst it shall please God to continue my life, to be the instrument of his Providence for the good of my fellow creatures; and so far am I from thinking that I conferred a favour by visiting your late wife, that I feel myself obliged by the opportunity given me, of edifying by the example of her pious resignation to the will of God, under her very severe sufferings; and of testifying my faith in the Saviour of the World, by encouraging one, whose piety and humility could not but render her an object of his divine benevolence, to look up to him with hope and confidence in her dying moments. That your late dear wife is gone to a state of bliss, I cannot in the least doubt. All the promises of the Gospel are in favour of such characters as her's, and I scruple not to call her, in the language of our Saviour, "*an Israelite indeed, in whom was no guile.*" Now that all *her sufferings* are over, you have cause to rejoice on her account, that it has pleased God to shorten the days of her trial, and temptation; and I am sincerely glad to find your resignation has been such, as to procure you that consolation which can only come from the Holy Ghost,

the Comforter, and as a fellow Christian, it likewise gives me great pleasure to see you so regular in your attendance upon the public worship of God; but as you have made me your friend, by so kindly estimating the little offices, which as a Christian, I was bound to perform when called upon to do so, I hope you will allow me to offer a word or two of advice to yourself, in order to induce you to become a frequenter of the Lord's Table. You have lately had a most convincing proof of the efficacy of the Holy Sacrament in the strengthening and refreshing of the soul of your late wife, but let me beg of you to consider, that though it is very right and proper for every Christian to partake of this holy ordinance at the close of life, if possible, it was not instituted merely as an office for the dying; but for the purpose of keeping up in the minds of those who, amidst the busy scenes of life, might be forgetful of their Redeemer, the *continual remembrance* of his death and sufferings. Call to mind then the injunction of our Lord himself at the very time he was going to lay down his life for the sins of mankind; "*do this in remembrance of me*," and whilst you are so properly solicitous to fulfil every request of your late dear wife, shew an equal solicitude to fulfil that of the Son of God, who has done infinitely more for you than any earthly friend can possibly do, and who, if you shew yourself his faithful disciple, by following the steps of his most holy life, and keeping his commandments, will reward you with ever-

lasting happiness in that world, to which the late dear object of your tenderest affection is gone before you.

Hitherto, I am persuaded, you have discharged the relative duties in a very conscientious manner, and the unwearied attention, and unremitting kindness by which you mitigated the pains and sufferings of your beloved partner must afford you the highest satisfaction. She has left behind her, two pledges of the conjugal affection, which subsisted betwixt you, and I am sure your intention is to discharge towards them the duty of a double parent. But in every relation of life, we stand in constant need of divine guidance, and there is certainly no means of grace so efficacious for obtaining this assistance as that of receiving the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper seriously and frequently, not only for the self examination it enduces, and the good resolutions which a thorough searching of the heart is productive of; but there certainly is a spiritual grace, a peculiar blessing annexed to the due participation of the Holy Communion, which, in a manner inconceivable to our limitted capacities, nourishes the spiritual life of the soul, and maintains the union which our Saviour promises in the xivth Chapter of St. John's Gospel, ver. 20, to those who love him and keep his commandments. I give you my advice thus freely, under the idea that you have not yet entertained thoughts of receiving the Sacrament, but probably the resolution which I wish to inspire may be already formed.

I should rejoice to see you at the next commemoration of this divine ordinance at the Chapel. Perhaps too, you might be able to prevail upon some of your family connections who are religious people to accompany you. It is really grievous to the *few* who *do* frequent the Lord's Table, to see so many who with a very little preparation, would be acceptable guests to the Saviour they honour in their hearts, dishonouring him in their acts, by turning their backs upon that heavenly feast, which his goodness has provided.

But it is time to put an end to this long letter, I will therefore, only add, that if you should be desirous of my advice in respect to books proper, as preparatory to receiving the Sacrament, I would recommend Bishop Wilson on the Lord's Supper, and his Sacra Privata; the latter is a little manual, which in your busiest days, by the employment of a few moments only (if you have not time for more) will put your thoughts into a religious train. If you or your friends should have a desire for any farther communication with me on the subject of this letter, I shall be happy to give you all the assistance in my power; and wishing all possible advancement in piety to them, and you, for the honour of God, and the eternal happiness of your souls, I subscribe myself,

Your sincere friend,

S. Trimmer.

TO MRS. TRIMMER.

Madam,

I have paid but an ill compliment to your letter, in suffering it to remain so long unanswered, particularly when I consider it is a farther testimony of your regard, which cannot fail of being highly flattering to me. I have two reasons to offer for not answering it sooner, which I hope your goodness will deem satisfactory, the first is, that Mr. and Mrs. B———, had a visitor from town, which deprived me of an opportunity of saying what I wished on the subject of your letter, the second is, I was desirous of examining myself with due deliberation on the subject you mention, that I might not return an inconsiderate answer to a letter, the receipt of which has been of much service to me in the examination it necessarily produced: and though the situation of mind it found me in, respecting religion, will reflect no credit on me as a Christian; I shall not attempt to disguise it.

You will perhaps be sorry to hear me say, I had so far advanced in thoughtless dissipation as to neglect the necessary duty of daily prayer, and although not deliberately wicked, attached to no darling vice, such is the hardness of our hearts, such

the depravity of human nature, and so much do we stand in need of divine assistance, that no sooner does our tribulation cease, than Religion with its attributes retires to a greater distance, and gives place to ideas of a less exalted nature.

From frequent perusals of your kind letter, I have redoubled my efforts to regain the ground I had lost, and hope, and trust by divine grace, and by your assistance, which you have so kindly proffered, and which I shall at all times be happy to receive, I shall succeed in becoming a Christian. With respect to taking the Sacrament, which for my own good, you seem so much to wish: I lament I did not receive it at the time of my wife's death; and though I am less fit than I was at that time, and however arduous I conceive the task for a young man to undertake, I am unwilling to shrink from its duties; and have only to request a little longer time that I may farther "examine myself, and repent before I presume to eat of that bread, and drink of that cup."

I have conversed with Mr. and Mrs. B——, on the subject, and they seem to wish to become partakers also; and if you will have the goodness to spare some little time in preparing them, they will be the more obliged to you. I have a young man, a friend, who will partake when I do; the books you mention, I have procured, and if you wish to recommend any other, or advise further by letter, your goodness will ever prove an induce-

ment to me to continue to deserve your future regards,

I am, Madam,

With due respect,

Your humble servant,

S. H——.

TO MR. H———.

So far from taking it amiss, that you did not return an earlier answer to my former letter, I am pleased that you have taken time to consider its contents, and am happy to find it has been in any degree useful to you; and as you have freely opened your mind to me, I will most readily give the best advice I am able to do.

Upon the duty of daily prayer, it is needless for me to enlarge, for you appear to be fully convinced that the neglect of it leaves the mind exposed to every temptation, and destitute of that divine aid, which alone can enable it to resist them.

The daily tribute of adoration, praise, and thanksgiving is justly due to the great Creator and Governor of the universe, to whose bounty we are indebted for life itself, with all its present comforts, and future hopes; and how can we expect a continuance of his divine favour and protection, or admission to an eternal inheritance hereafter, if we will not pray for them, since God requires us to

do so? Let me therefore, earnestly entreat you, carefully to avoid the sin you so justly deplore, which opens the door to a thousand others. When you have accustomed yourself for a short time, to begin and end the day with prayer, I am persuaded you will continue it from inclination. Consider what an inestimable privilege it is, to be permitted, to address the greatest and best of Beings, and the unspeakable advantages which are attached to it, and surely you will never more slight it as you have done.

It is certainly to be lamented, that you should have made any deviations from the path of duty; but with such conviction upon your mind, of the folly of a life of dissipation, and such an earnest desire to be a Christian in the true sense of the word, it appears to me, that you have no very difficult task to perform. *Strive* for the victory over the world, the flesh, and the devil; pray for the help of divine grace, and strength will be given you from above; but you *must strive*, for we cannot expect that God will assist us if we are wanting to ourselves. In order to animate you to this important combat, on which no less than your eternal happiness depends, you should frequently, and seriously reflect upon the things of eternity, as described in the Holy Scriptures; and consider whether there is any thing in this life, that is worthy to be put in competition with the joys of Heaven, and an eternal inheritance of glory and immortality.

In respect to your wishing to defer your attendance at the Sacrament, till you have perfectly satisfied your mind, that you are on a proper state of preparation for it, I do not in the least blame you. But it appears to me, that you entertain a mistaken idea, concerning the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, and that you look upon the *first* receiving it, as *entering* into a *new* and solemn covenant. It is no such thing, it is a *means*, and a most blessed one, of *repairing the breaches of a former covenant*, and I do not see how any one can with strict propriety call himself a Christian, who does not avail himself of it, since every one has repeatedly broken the covenant into which he entered by the Sacrament of Baptism, and connot be restored to its privileges without having recourse to the other Sacrament for the renewal of them; for, divine ordinances having been appointed by our Lord himself, for *express purposes*, we certainly are not at liberty to chuse whether we will comply with them or not; neither are we able to obtain forgiveness and remission of sins, in ways of our own contriving. If you will carefully, and deliberately, read over, in the Common Prayer Book, the offices for the administration of the two Sacraments of Baptism, and of the Lord's Supper, (which are perfectly conformable to Scripture) you will see that having been initiated into the Church of Christ by the former, you are solemnly bound to believe, and to do all that the latter requires of those who partake of it, viz. to

renounce the Devil and all his works, &c. to believe the articles of the Christian Faith, and to keep God's holy will and commandments all the days of your life; for it was upon those conditions only, that you were made a member of Christ, a child of of God, and an inheritor of the kingdom of Heaven. You acknowledge that you have broken the terms of the Christian Covenant, by doing which you have forfeited the privileges of it. Do you wish, let me ask you, to cease to be a member of Christ? Do you no longer wish to have God for your father? Are you contented to forego your claim to a heavenly inheritance; or do you wish to renew your covenant with God, and to be in a state of favour and son-ship with him. Surely you cannot hesitate a moment, which alternative to make choice of. In this emergency, what course can you pursue, but to partake of the Holy Sacrament, which the Redeemer of the world himself ordained, not only to keep up the remembrance of the sacrifice, which he made for the sins of the world; but as a means of obtaining *remission* and *forgiveness of sins*, upon the conditions of *faith in his blood*, and *sincere repentance*. So far from considering it as an arduous task, for a young man to receive the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, I regard this holy institution as peculiarly suited to the early period of life, and particularly necessary then. I was myself, a communicant at the age of 15, and numberless have been the comforts I have derived in the course of my life from a fre-

quent attendance upon the Lord's Table. I can assure you, that I would not give up those comforts, for any pleasure this world affords. Every child of mine, I rejoice to say, is a frequenter of the Holy Communion by choice, and I am sure they are all ready to acknowledge that they have found their youth the happier owing to the comfortable participation of it.

I am,

Your sincere friend,

S. Trimmer.

JOURNAL

FOR THE

YEAR 1794.

Jan. 1. I rise from my bed after a tolerably good night to enter upon a new year. Whether I shall see the end of it, God only knows: I do not desire to look into futurity, I only wish so to number my days, that I may apply my heart unto wisdom; I only wish to live to be of use to my family, and to finish my work. Perhaps it may please the Almighty Father to continue my life for these purposes; but I desire to bring my mind into perfect obedience to his blessed will. I wish to be prepared to give up my accounts with joy, whenever he shall see fit to call me hence. —

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Almighty Father! I lift up my soul to thee; I praise, I adore, I magnify thy great and glorious name! O Lord God Almighty, I love thee with all my heart, with all my soul, and with all my strength. I desire to do thy holy will; I aspire

after the joys of thy heavenly kingdom! What is there in the whole circle of creation that I desire in comparison of thee. O Lord, unite me to thee, through the mediation of thy blessed Son!

Saviour of the world! adorable Jesus; honoured and beloved Lord, thou knowest that I love thee. O how my soul loves to meditate on divine and heavenly truths. Thanks! thanks! to the God of all goodness, for revealing them.

I shall not always grovel upon earth! No, I shall hereafter, I humbly trust, rise to the regions of immortal bliss! Transporting expectation: O how the heart expands with it. I shall behold my Saviour! I shall approach the throne of God! I shall join with angels! with the spirits of just men made perfect, in hymns and hallelujahs, before the throne of Grace! Honour, and glory, and power, and riches, and dominion, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and to the Lamb for ever and ever! Amen!

Jan. 12. It has pleased the God of all grace and mercy to let me see another Sabbath; but I have not been free from the apprehensions of sudden death; I have had many very alarming symptoms: it appears to me as if my constitution was in a bad way; but perhaps my danger may be imaginary; God knows: however, let me watch; let me keep my lamp burning, that if the Bridegroom calls, I may be ready to attend! — — —

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Vain pomps and pleasures of this world, what are ye, when compared even with the imperfect ideas which I now entertain of heavenly bliss? My soul aspires after a crown of glory, an heavenly inheritance, after the vision of God, the society of angels! O ye celestial spirits! I long to unite with you in hymns and choral symphonies! I long to bend with you before the throne of Grace! It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord; to sing praises unto thy name, O most highest! To show forth thy loving kindness in the morning, and thy truth in the night season! For thou, O Lord, hast made me glad through thy works! O Lord, how wonderful are thy works! Thou art clothed with majesty! Thou art girded with strength; thy throne is established of old; thou art from everlasting! Transcendently great and glorious Being! my soul contemplates on thine infinite perfection with veneration and awe! with love and gratitude inexpressible. O continue to me thy loving kindness, thy tender mercies! Thy favour, O Lord, is dearer to me than life itself. May I find admittance to thy presence when I quit this mortal state!

My soul now flies upwards, on the wings of devotion; she flies to God! Father of the universe! Almighty God! Lord God of heaven and earth! behold a poor weak mortal aspiring to rise above mortality. I cannot find words to express the feelings of my heart. I will bless thee, O Lord, at all times; thy praise shall be continually in my

mouth! My soul shall make her boast in the Lord; the humble shall hear thereof and be glad. O magnify the Lord with me, and let us praise his name together. As the hart panteth for the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God! my soul thirsteth for God, yea even for the living God! when shall I come and appear before God? God is the Lord, and greatly to be feared; there is no end of his greatness! My soul truly waiteth upon God, from him cometh my salvation; he only is my rock and my salvation; he is my defence, so that I shall not be moved. My soul, O God, shall be satisfied when I praise thee with joyful lips. I will remember thee upon my bed, and meditate upon thee in the night watches. Because thou hast been my helper, therefore under the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice.

Feb. 2. Lord, with gratitude and veneration I offer unto thee my humble thanksgivings for thine abundant mercies; but particularly for the peace and comfort of mind I have lately enjoyed, in the deliverance which thou hast graciously granted me from the fear of sudden death; and for giving me renewed strength to continue those works by which I humbly hope to benefit the rising generation of the poor. I render thee the tribute of humble thanksgivings for all the blessings, spiritual and temporal, bestowed upon me and my dear children. O Lord God, heavenly Father, vouchsafe to receive these my thanksgiv-

ings, for the sake of Jesus Christ, thy Son, and my adorable Saviour!

O Lord, thou knowest better than myself what I stand in need of: all my wants, and all my wishes, are before thee. Vouchsafe, I beseech thee, to supply my necessities of every kind, as thou seest best for me! Satisfy those wishes which are agreeable to thy blessed will, and enable me to submit with entire resignation of mind to the disappointment of those which thou dost not see fit to grant. I also entreat thee to continue thy heavenly benediction to all my dear children, wheresoever dispersed. I pray to thee, O Lord, in particular for those dear children who are at a distance from me: May they enjoy the benefit of thy grace and guidance. All this I beg for the sake of my dear Saviour, the only Mediator betwixt thee, O God, and sinful man! Adorable Redeemer! Son of God! Friend of my soul! plead for thy faithful but weak servant: O plead for me, blessed Lord! — — —

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O I could sit and think of these things till I almost fancied myself an inhabitant of heaven. Sweet thoughts of heavenly pleasures: of the society of angels, of the wisdom of God, of the benignity of the Redeemer, fill my mind! Delightful contemplation, that gives wings to the soul! God of all power and glory, when shall I behold the reality of these things, of which at present I can have but faint shadows! O that I could praise

praise thee according to thy excellent greatness, King of kings and Lord of lords! O that I could do thy will, Almighty Father, as it is done in heaven! I praise, I bless, I adore, I magnify thee, O Lord God of Hosts; thou greatest, thou best of Beings! Lord, who can speak of thee as thou art! Not even the highest archangel can declare thy majesty, thy power, thy wisdom, thy goodness, thy mercy, thy truth: much less a poor, weak, erring mortal. Yet vouchsafe to accept the humble adoration which I pay thee, O Lord, with my whole heart! Adorable Trinity, I worship thee with the conviction of my understanding. O bless me, help me, comfort me, instruct me: receive me hereafter to eternal glory and bliss, great God Almighty!

Feb. 9. — — — — — — — —

After this retrospect, which I have made with a sincere desire of knowing the present state of my soul, and of calling to mind the mercies of the past week, I will address my God in humble prayer. Merciful Father! God of all grace and goodness, I bow my soul before thee, in an humble sense of my own unworthiness, and thine infinite perfection. O Lord, I confess myself a sinner. Alas! my sins and offences are innumerable, and I am not worthy to address thy divine Majesty but through the mediation of my blessed Redeemer, thy only Son Jesus Christ: for his sake, I beseech thee, pardon all my past offences, and receive me into favour. O Lord, with a grateful heart I offer

thee my humble thanksgivings for all the mercies of the week past; particularly for the peace and tranquillity which thou hast graciously afforded me, and for the strength which has been granted me for the pursuit of my labours. I thank thee, O God, for the success thou hast graciously given to my plan for the benefit of the poor. O vouchsafe to continue and increase it, and give me the heart to make a proper use of what thy bountiful hand bestows. Let me not be vain and conceited; let me not be puffed up with the applauses of men: thy divine approbation ought to be my first object: thy glory, my principal aim.

Merciful Father, vouchsafe to continue thy blessing to me and my dear family. Grant us, I most earnestly beseech thee, those things of which we stand in need: restrain in us all covetous desires; teach us moderation and contentment. O Lord, let us ever act in all things with a strict regard to duty; preserve us from worldly-mindedness. O merciful Father, gracious God, the husband of the widow, the father of the fatherless, hearken unto my prayer, which goeth not out of feigned lips. Lift up the light of thy countenance, make thy face to shine on us, and grant us peace, for Jesus Christ's sake! Amen! — —

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O Lord, I praise thee for all the blessings I enjoyed in the holy state of matrimony. I thank thee for giving me grace to do my duty, as I trust I did, in an acceptable manner, in that state. I

thank thee, O God, for making me the parent of good children. O Lord, the instances of thy loving kindness are beyond number. O that I could offer thee such praise and adoration as thy greatness, thy goodness, thy wisdom, thy power justly demand. While I live will I praise thee, O Lord! As long as I have my being, I will extol thee, O God, my King! I will bless thy name for ever and ever! Every day will I bless thee. Great art thou, O Lord, and wonderful; there is no end of thy greatness: it is unsearchable. Thou art good to all, and thy tender mercies are over all thy works. All thy works praise thee, O Lord, and thy saints shall bless thee: they shall speak of thy glory, and talk of thy power; to make known to the sons of men thy mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of thy kingdom: thy dominion, O Lord, endureth throughout all ages. O Lord, thou art nigh unto all them that call upou thee in truth; thou wilt fulfil the desire of them that fear thee; thou also wilt hear their cry, and will save them. O Lord, preserve me, for I love thee! my mouth shall speak thy praise! my soul shall bless thy holy name, for ever and ever! — — —

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Feb. 16. Once more I retire from the world to examine my heart, to make up my account; that if it shall please my Lord and Master to call me at midnight, I may be ready. O awful thought! this night may my soul be required of me! though at this instant I am free from alarm-

ing symptoms. God only knows whether I shall see the morning light: his will, not mine, be done! — — — — — — —

My mind is at this instant full of humble confidence that my adorable Saviour has granted me an interest in that atonement, which he made for the sins of the whole world. I am stedfastly purposed to make his divine precepts the rule of my actions, to take his holy life for my pattern, and therefore will not give way to desponding fears. No! rather let me indulge the delightful hope that my imperfect services have been accepted through *faith*. O Lord, heavenly Father! I beseech thee to pardon all my transgressions, for the sake of thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, the only Mediator betwixt thee and a race of sinful mortals! O Lord, continue, I beseech thee, thy grace and heavenly benediction to all my dear family. Bestow on them and me those blessings, both spiritual and temporal, which thou knowest that we stand in need of; and enable us to submit to all the dispensations of thy Providence! — — —

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Great God Almighty, Father of the universe, thou greatest and best of Beings, O thou whose infinite perfections exceed all praise! O thou from whom all good things proceed; receive my adoration! my thanksgivings—O Lord, thou seest my heart! thou canst read its wishes! O that I could praise thee in angelic strains! Glory to God in the highest! and on earth peace! good-will to-

wards men! Honour, and glory, and power, and dominion be unto him that sitteth upon the throne of heaven, and to the Lamb for ever and ever! Great art thou, O King of kings and Lord of lords. How imperfect is this homage to the Author of the universe. O God, I feel thy goodness! I acknowledge thy greatness, I submit to thy power, I will be guided by thy wisdom. Accept me for my Saviour's sake! Adorable Saviour, intercede for me.

Feb. 23. I am come to the end of another Sabbath, and thanks to the God of all grace and goodness, it has been a comfortable day. I have gone through the business of it with more ease and satisfaction than usual. I am not conscious of any particular offence committed in the course of the last week: of no presumptuous sin, I mean. My offences, I am sensible, have been numerous, but they do not lie heavy upon my mind. I trust and hope, they will not be charged to my account at the last day. I would not dissemble or cloke them before the face of Almighty God. It would be in vain to attempt to do so. Alas! they are better known to God, than they are to me: but I trust the peace and tranquillity I at this instant feel, is an earnest that God has forgiven them. O merciful and gracious Father, let me not deceive myself in so momentous a concern; let me not think more highly of myself than I ought to think. I know and feel, O Lord, that I am a poor, weak, erring mortal; that I have no merits

of my own in the sight of thine infinite perfection. My trust is wholly built upon the merits of my Redeemer; upon the rock of ages! — —

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O Almighty Father, hearken, I beseech thee, to my humble supplications: receive the widow's prayer; protect the fatherless children. O grant my humble petitions; in mercy grant them, for my dear Redeemer's sake!

Father of the universe! God of heaven and earth, the fountain of all blessings, the giver of all good things, thou art exalted above all praise. O mayest thou receive the willing homage of all the millions of intelligent creatures thy creating power has brought into existence. I love thee, O God, with my whole heart; I adore thee, I worship thee, I devote myself to thy service, I praise thee, I magnify thee, O Lord God Almighty. Adorable and ever-blessed Trinity, glory be to thee for ever and ever, Amen!

March 2. At the conclusion of this holy day, I would call my sins to remembrance, I would judge myself, that I may not be judged of the Lord. Nothing remains upon my conscience but a general sense of weakness and imperfection. O Lord, I beseech thee, awaken in me a sense of every sin, by which I have offended thee, that I may with sorrow and contrition acknowledge and deplore it. O let me not deceive myself into an opinion that I am righteous, and do not stand in need of repentance. No, most gracious God, far

be such thoughts from me! but I am willing to lay hold of those hopes which thy promises hold out, that faith and repentance will be accepted for righteousness. A true faith I trust I have, and that leads me to rely on the merits of a crucified Saviour, to supply what is deficient, to atone for what is amiss in me. For my dear Redeemer's sake, vouchsafe, O merciful Father! to pardon all my sins, both of omission and commission. Take not thy Holy Spirit from me, but grant me grace to improve in every Christian virtue. I most humbly beseech thee to continue thy favour and loving kindness to all my dear children. O Lord, preserve them all, I beseech thee, in thy faith and fear: suffer them not to depart from the paths of holiness, or if any amongst them unhappily stray, bring them back again!

Accept, most gracious God! my humble thanksgivings for the mercies of the last week bestowed upon me and mine, for the blessings of health, peace, quiet repose, strength to perform our respective duties; for a comfortable supply of the necessaries of this mortal life, and for the still more valuable supplies of grace, and inward consolation. Receive, O merciful Father, these my humble petitions and thanksgivings, for Jesus Christ's sake, thy Son, and our Saviour! Amen!

O Lord God Almighty, I lift up my soul to thee in adoration and thanksgiving. View my heart! O Lord, I cannot find words equal to the senti-

ments I feel: I praise thee, O God! I acknowledge thee to be the Lord; I worship thee, the Father everlasting. To thee all angels cry aloud, the heavens and all the powers therein; to thee, cherubim and seraphim continually do cry, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts! Heaven and earth are full of thy glory: glory be to thee, O Lord! — — — — — — — —

I hope I have not given way to vanity, since I read my own character drawn in so flattering a manner by an unknown author. All that is said there of me, I *wish* to deserve; but do I deserve it? — — — — — — —

I am praised for having borne two most trying afflictions with Christian fortitude. This, I thank God! has not kindled a spark of vanity in me. I never, that I know of, lost the sense of the divine favour in these instances. No, Lord God Almighty! Father of mercies! God of all consolation! to thee, to thee alone, be ascribed all the praise that is due for the example I set in bearing my afflictions with patient resignation. When thou sawest fit to destroy the hopes I had fondly formed, that my dear son would be restored to health, thou didst most kindly prepare me for the separation. O let me never forget thy fatherly goodness! Praised, praised be thy glorious name, for the comfort thou didst afford me; for enabling me to submit to thy all-wise dispensation. Again, when thou wast pleased to call me to the severer

trial of parting from the best and kindest of husbands, how great and manifold were thy tender mercies, Lord God Almighty! how sweetly didst thou sooth my afflicted heart. O may I never arrogate to myself any merit for bearing with fortitude what my weak nature would have sunk under had I not been supported by thy sustaining hand! O Lord, look into my heart which is open before thee; let the gratitude which now glows within it ascend to thee as an evening sacrifice! May it be a sweet smelling savour! — — —

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O how was my poor heart wrung with anguish when the picture of my misfortunes in losing my beloved husband and child, was so unexpectedly set before me! truly has the writer described the circumstances of my distresses, though she has given me more merit for bearing them than I deserve. How can I bear the sad recollection of that fatal night which separated thee from me my beloved husband! — — — — — — — —

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O merciful Father, I render thee unfeigned thanks for all the comforts and blessings of the last week. May we make a proper use of all thy good gifts; and submit with becoming resignation to all the trials thou mayst see fit to allot us during our pilgrimage upon earth.

Divine Lord, adorable Saviour! eternal Son of the eternal Father, vouchsafe to accept the humble homage of a heart sincerely devoted to thee,

and truly sensible of the redemption which thou hast purchased for mankind, of which I hope to partake. O Lord, I have the firmest faith in thee; on thee alone are all my hopes of a happy eternity fixed. I feel a fervent zeal for thy honour and glory. I wish to promote the knowledge of thy glorious gospel. Give me fresh supplies of grace. Grant me thy peace. Prosper the work of my hand; strengthen me to complete it. — — — — — — — — —

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I will conclude my evening employment with the praises of God. Lord of all power and might, glory, majesty, and dominion! I, thy poor creature, presume to offer unto thee my humble praise! who can speak of thee according to the excellency of thy glory! who, O Lord, can describe thine infinite perfections? I will magnify thee, O God, in my imagination! I will think of thee as highly as I am capable of doing in this imperfect state! I will praise thy name for ever and ever! Great, art thou, O Lord, and marvellous are thy doings, thou art worthy to be praised and had in honour! there is no end of thy greatness. I would be talking of thy salvation from day to day; I will speak of thy worship, thy glory, thy praise, and wondrous works. O that all mankind would unite in worshipping, serving, and adoring thee! O that thy will were done on earth as it is in heaven. Lord, I can testify from my own experience, that thou art good and gracious, merci-

ful and long-suffering. Thou art loving unto every man, and thy mercy is over all thy works! Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all ages. Thou hast upholden me when I was falling; thou hast lifted me up when I was down; thou, O Lord, art holy in all thy ways, and righteous in all thy works. My mouth shall speak thy praise; as long as I have any being I will praise thee, O God, most holy, O Lord most mighty, adorable Trinity! Amen! Amen!

Glory, honour, thanksgiving, might, adoration, praise, be ascribed unto God most high! O Lord, who is like unto thee? there is none worthy to be compared to thee! thou art good, and thy mercy endureth for ever. I will praise thee, O God, I will worship thee as long as I have any being; for thy loving kindness and thy truth are ever more and more towards me. In the day when I cry unto thee thou sustainest me, and strengthenest me with strength in my soul. I will extol thee, O God, my king! I will bless thy name for ever and ever! Praise the Lord of heaven; praise him in the height. Praise him all ye angels of his, ye servants of his that do his pleasure. Praise the Lord, O my soul!

March 23. I desire most earnestly to repent and amend my life in every thing that is amiss. Father of mercies, beneficent and merciful Creator! I most earnestly beseech thee to pardon all my sins for Jesus Christ's sake; and to give me

grace to avoid them for the time to come! O Lord most mighty! I would not willingly offend thee! on the contrary, my desire is, to live to thy honour and glory! to act up to the perfection of the nature thou hast given me. But, O Lord, how greatly do I fall short of it! enter not into judgment with thy servant, O Lord, for in thy sight shall no man living be justified!

I beseech thee, O Lord, to continue thy heavenly benediction to all my dear children. Hold up their goings in the paths of righteousness; lead them on towards the heavenly mansions. Lord God! heavenly Father! hear my prayer that goeth not out of feigned lips, and grant these my humble petitions for my dear Redeemer's sake!

I will ever cherish a grateful remembrance of my beloved husband; so highly do I esteem his virtues, that I build the fondest hopes upon them: yes, I think, through the merits of a crucified Saviour, we shall certainly meet again. O delightful expectation! perhaps I shall find him when my soul wings her flight to the eternal regions, in company with the dear children who went before. Perhaps our honoured parents may be also with him, and that dear saint my excellent brother! nay, I can carry my hopes back to former generations of pious ancestors, of some whom I knew, and of others who died before I was born. I shall not then be a stranger in the realms of bliss; perhaps the angels, those who have ever been inhabitants of heaven, will give me a benevolent wel-

come; the Saviour of the world perhaps will vouchsafe to own me as his faithful though erring servant. I shall behold the glory of my heavenly Father! I shall bow before his throne! freed from the infirmities of the flesh, I shall then be able to praise him with fervour and delight. I shall learn the hymn of angels. How feeble is the highest praise to which I can now aspire. O angelic hosts! behold a soul anxious to imitate your blest example, but unable to accomplish its desires. I love God, I fear him, I adore him, I honour the Son even as I honour the Father, I believe in the Holy Ghost, the lord and giver of life, but I cannot express the sentiments of my heart! I would spend my life in praising God, if my weak powers would admit of it, or if it were consistent with the duties of humanity to do so; but I must wait till my change comes, and then I hope, blessed Spirits, to be admitted into your company. O how happy am I to think that there are in the creation intelligent beings capable of giving praise to the Creator, the Redeemer, the sanctifier, and that I shall hereafter be like them. O God, thou knowest my heart! let my meditation find acceptance with thee for Jesus Christ's sake. I once more devote myself to the service of God; I resolve to walk in the way of his commandments; to take up my cross and follow my Saviour; to yield my mind to the guidance of the Holy Ghost; to commit my ways unto the Lord; to act with kindness and compassion to my fellow-creatures; to keep my

heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life!

March 30. — — — — — — —

O merciful Father! I further pray unto thee in behalf of my dear children. I beseech thee to draw them all nearer and nearer to thee. O let not the arts of Satan prevail against any one of them. Deliver them, I most earnestly beseech thee, out of all temptations. To thy good providence I look up for the kindness thou hast graciously promised to the widow and the fatherless. O Lord, I cast my care upon thee, for I know thou carest for me, mean and humble as I am. Lord, when I think of my distance from thee, I am lost in wonder and adoration! Great God of heaven and earth! how transcendantly great and glorious art thou! I cannot even think worthily of thine infinite perfections! adored be thy name, O Lord God Almighty!

April 20. Easter-Day.

Blessed and adorable Saviour! this day have I approached thy holy table to commemorate with my fellow Christians thy glorious resurrection! O Lord, I acknowledge thee to be the true Paschal Lamb. The true Passover, for whose sake a race of sinners will be saved from everlasting death! I most firmly believe that thou art risen from the dead, and that thou hast opened unto us the gate of everlasting life.

I know full well the importance of thy resurrection, for upon it are fixed all the hopes I can en-

tertain of rising to eternal life myself! may I live so that when the last trumpet shall summon me from the grave, I may be acknowledged by thee, and admitted, for thy sake, amongst the redeemed of heaven.

O what bliss even to think of heaven! regions of eternal glory! rivers of pleasure! a thousand times ten thousand multitudes of happy and benevolent spirits! choirs of angels! continual praise and adoration! Great God of heaven and earth, how can I thank thee for affording to a worm like me even the most distant hope of entering heaven. But my Saviour is risen from the dead; he has ascended up on high; he has opened the gate of life, that the righteous may enter in. He intercedes for his faithful people; he covers them with the robe of his righteousness; he will wash them in his precious blood; he will present his redeemed to the Father, and they will be accepted for his sake. I praise the Lord of glory; I magnify the Redeemer! O that I could speak of him as he is! blessed Saviour, I adore thee, I worship thee, I honour thee, I love thee, I wish to please thee, I desire to be faithful till death; may I obtain the crown of glory!

Merciful Father, be graciously pleased to pardon my manifold offences for Jesus Christ's sake. O great and good Lord God Almighty, what a poor weak creature am I! O Lord, I am truly sensible of my manifold sins and infirmities; I know and feel that I greatly fall short of my duty!

I know that I am not worthy to lift up my soul to a God of infinite perfections. O Lord, I acknowledge that so far from having any merit, I am unworthy of the least of all thy mercies; that I have forfeited thy favours and the blessings of immortality a thousand and a thousand times. O Lord, if I have ever improperly exalted myself; If I have ever thought more highly of myself than I ought to think, I desire now most earnestly to humble myself even to the dust before thee! O Lord God Almighty, vouchsafe in thine infinite compassion to grant me pardon and peace for my dear Redeemer's sake. Gracious Father, vouchsafe to send thy Holy Spirit into my heart to cleanse and sanctify it. May that divine Spirit correct whatever is amiss in my temper and disposition, and give me a truly Christian heart! A heart full of benevolence, kindness, charity, and devout affection, then shall I be pleasing in thy sight, Holy Father, for Jesus Christ's sake!

Accept, most gracious Lord, my humblest thanksgivings for thine abundant mercies to me and my dear family. O continue to us all, thy heavenly benediction, and prosper all our undertakings that are agreeable to thy will and commandments. Preserve us from all the temptations and allurements of the world, the flesh, and the devil, and lead us in the path of life and glory, till we finally enter the kingdom of thy dear Son, there to enjoy the happiness which thy goodness has reserved for the righteous. Receive, most

gracious Father, my humble supplications in behalf of my friends, and also of my enemies. Lead them all in the way of truth and goodness; shower down thy choicest blessings on our king and nation, and avert from us those dreadful evils under which a neighbouring nation is now groaning. O may we be an acceptable people in thy sight, a nation of Christians! Amen! Amen!

Dear and adorable Saviour! Friend of my soul, I presume to come to thee humbly and earnestly imploring thy gracious intercession. Vouchsafe, blessed Son of God, the only mediator between a lost race and the infinite majesty of heaven; vouchsafe to give efficacy to my imperfect prayers which I have offered to my heavenly Father. O Lord, without thee I am nothing, or worse than nothing, a miserable sinner!

Eternal, infinite, adorable Trinity; Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, praised be thy glorious name, Almighty God. O that I could praise thee according to thine infinite perfection; that I could speak of thee as thou art! that I might glorify thee by devoting all the faculties of my soul for ever to thy service, and to the manifestation of thy goodness and mercy! Remember me, O Lord, according to the favour that thou bearest unto thy people! visit me with thy salvation! may I hereafter partake of the felicity of thy chosen!

O eternal Father, great God Almighty, the fountain of all goodness, the author of my being! my soul honours thee with the highest veneration!

I adore thee, O my God, with the deepest humility; I feel my dependance upon thee, I am sensible that I am indebted to thy bountiful goodness for every thing I enjoy, and for the hopes of a happy immortality; and yet how often do I transgress against thy holy laws! O Lord, that I do so is the greatest grief of my heart; that heart which is at all times open to thy all seeing eye, and which at this time glows with the sincerest gratitude towards thee. O that I could at all times maintain such sentiments towards thee; that I could at all times please thee! But, O Lord God, thou knowest my weaknesses. I trust that thou pitiest me as a father pitieth his child who offends not with a perverse heart, but from weakness. Most merciful God, I humbly and earnestly beseech thee to pardon my manifold offences for my dear Redeemer's sake. O Father Almighty, thou knowest that I honour the Son even as I honour thee! thou knowest that I do not presume to expect or hope for salvation, but through his merits. Pardon me then, O gracious Father, for Jesus Christ's sake. Hear me! turn not away thine ear from my petitions. O take not thy holy Spirit from me!

O Lord, I beseech thee to continue to my family thy heavenly benediction; keep them by thy grace in the way of everlasting life. Hear the widow's prayer in behalf of those dear children whose earthly father thou hast seen fit to take away!

Bless, O Lord, our fleets and armies, and if it be thy good pleasure, let the sword of war speedily return into the scabbard. While thy judgements are on the earth, may its inhabitants learn righteousness!

To these my supplications and prayers I desire to add my humblest thanksgivings. I thank thee, gracious Father, for all thy goodness.

O may the prayers and praises which I have just offered up with my household find acceptance at thy footstool, almighty and merciful Father.

May 11. I withdraw from the world. I retire to my closet to search into my heart, and in the stillness of retirement to hold sweet communion with my God and Saviour. What a delightful, what an honourable employment! and is it really permitted to a worm like me to hold communion with the Creator of innumerable worlds? Thanks be to the mercy and goodness of God through Jesus Christ it is so! And is it possible that human beings can slight such a privilege as this? Father of mercies, and God of all grace and goodness, far be it from me to undervalue or neglect to avail myself of thy indulgent kindness! O Lord, heavenly Father, filled with faith, and hope, and joy in the Holy Ghost, I draw near unto thee, most humbly beseeching thee for Jesus Christ's sake, thy Son, and my Divine Saviour, to pardon all the transgressions of the week past. I trust, Almighty Father, thou hast pardoned them through the intercession of my blessed Re-

deemer, whose dying love I have this day commemorated, and whose intercession I have humbly implored. O what a comfort is it to sinners to be allowed to partake of that blessed sacrament! Holy Father! I adore thy glorious majesty, I am truly sensible of thine infinite mercy and compassion. I hunger and thirst after that righteousness which can no other way be obtained by sinful mortals but through the merits of thy dear Son. O Lord, my heart is open before thee, thou knowest how earnestly I desire to please thee; thou seest also my weakness and imperfections; my sins, I trust, are covered by the righteousness of my Redeemer, so that thou wilt not punish me for them, at least not eternally. To such chastisements as thou in thy fatherly goodness shall see fit to inflict upon me, I desire with all humility, and dutiful submission to resign myself. O Lord, heavenly Father! with gratitude I acknowledge that all the chastisements thou hast hitherto inflicted on me have been tender mercies. I can truly say wish the Psalmist, *it is good for me that I have been afflicted;* for under the heaviest of these afflictions thou madest me feel thy love and compassion. Almighty Father! vouchsafe to accept the humble tribute of a thankful heart. *O it is surely a joyful and a pleasant thing to be thankful, to tell of thy loving-kindness early in the morning, and of thy truth in the night season.* O that my heart were constantly tuned to thy praises! that I could spend all my days in thanksgivings! But I

must wait till my change comes; then, O gracious God! I hope to join with the heavenly host in offering exalted and acceptable adoration at thy throne! and can I ever hope to approach thy heavenly throne, great God of hosts! O yes! I shall behold thee, I humbly trust, through the Salvation of Christ my Saviour! that I may find admittance among the redeemed of Christ, I will strive to follow his blessed example. O gracious Father! strengthen me by thy spirit to do so! Father of mercies, receive I most humbly pray thee my supplications and prayers in behalf of my dear children; keep them thine evermore; let not one be lost. To thy fatherly goodness, thy over-ruling Providence, I humbly recommend all the concerns of me and my dear family, both spiritual and temporal; thou, O Lord, knowest what is best for all of us, and be thy will done in us, and by us, both in time and eternity!

May 15. Merciful and gracious Father! I call to remembrance on this anniversary of that day which deprived me of the best of husbands, thy loving-kindness and tender mercy, which mitigated my affliction, and enabled me to bear the heavy stroke which thy wisdom saw fit to inflict upon me. O Lord, I acknowledge with all humility and gratitude, that it was good for me that I was afflicted, for my sorrows led me to thee, and thou didst refresh me! Father of mercies, ever keep alive in my mind the remembrance of thy goodness, and vouchsafe to continue to me, and my dear family

thy fatherly care, which we have so liberally experienced.

May 25. With inexpressible comfort I am able to say, that at public worship this morning, I was collected from the beginning of the prayers to the end of the Sermon; scarcely for a minute did my thoughts wander. O that I could always be so in the house of God! to God's grace and goodness, I most thankfully ascribe it, that I have been so today: what a delightful place is God's house when the soul is fully occupied in the business of it! that I may find a continual repetition of the pleasure and comfort, I have this day experienced in my Father's house! on myself it greatly depends, whether I shall or not; I will endeavour in future to keep my thoughts from wandering; if I do my part, no doubt that God will graciously help my infirmities, which are very great both of body and mind.

Great, almighty, and most merciful God! I cast myself on thy mercy, beseeching thee with all humility to pardon my manifold offences, for Jesus Christ's sake, thy only begotten Son, the Saviour of mankind. I also beseech thee, most gracious Father, to have compassion upon my manifold infirmities, and to strengthen me by thy Holy Spirit, that I may avoid all offences against thee, and my neighbour for the time to come, and that I may finally be received through the merits of my Redeemer, into thy heavenly kingdom. Vouchsafe, O merciful Father, to con-

tinue to me, and my dear family, thy blessing and protection during our continuance in this world; and keep us thine to all eternity. O Lord, lend a gracious ear to the humble petitions which I presume to offer up in behalf of my country! preserve us from public and secret foes, that would destroy our comforts, and deprive us of the blessings, which thy Providence hath graciously showered down in such abundance. Spare the nation, O Lord, for the sake of the faithful, that are to be found in it! spare it for the sake of that holy religion which shines forth with a bright lustre like the morning star: spare it for thy mercies sake. Avert thy judgments, gracious God! and make us feel thy goodness, that we may be thankful to thee, and zealous for thine honour. O that I may be found a fit instrument to spread the knowledge of thy holy word among the poor! this is the honour I aspire to. O Lord, thou knowest my heart in this matter, and may my desires and labours find acceptance with thee, for Jesus Christ's sake!

O gracious Father! I desire to render thee my hearty thanks for all thy goodness; I thank thee as an individual of this favoured nation for thy merciful interposition, in giving victory to our fleets and armies; continue to protect us, and grant that the sword of war may soon be sheathed.

I thank thee, gracious Father, for all the personal mercies which I have in the last week received from thy bountiful hands; and for the bles-

sings thou hast bestowed upon my dear children. Continue to us, O gracious God! thy loving-kindness and tender mercies, and enable us to improve them to thy honour and glory, the good of our own souls, and the benefit of our fellow creatures.

I most humbly beseech thee, merciful Father! to give me grace to do my duty in every relation of life, and if it be thy good pleasure, strengthen me to do the work of my divine Lord and Master, Jesus Christ.

It may easily be supposed, that the benevolence of Mrs. Trimmer frequently called forth her talent for writing. This was often the case before she became an author, though no letters of that kind are now remaining. It is not exactly remembered in what year the two following were written, but as it is not material to ascertain the exact date, they are inserted here. The unhappy young woman, who was the subject of them, was daughter to a gentleman of affluent fortune, and had been brought up with great delicacy and care; but it is presumed from the stile of her conversation, and the impropriety of her conduct, that more pains had been taken to give her shewy accomplishments, than domestic habits and religious principles; however it might be, at an early age, she ran away with a young man, who was only a servant in her father's family. Her parents, as may be imagined, were greatly incensed, and cast her off entirely, declaring that they would never again receive, or forgive her.

Thus abandoned to her fate, she endeavoured to procure work in the fields as a hay-maker, and wandered about during the season of harvest vainly striving to pick up a scanty maintenance. Her husband, whenever he could get work, did his utmost to support her; but being by means of this imprudent match thrown out of employment in the neighbourhood in which he was known, he did not find it easy to procure work amongst strangers.

His wife too, unused to the hardships of poverty, was unable to afford him the assistance which a woman born in his own rank of life could have done, so that for him the connection was equally unfortunate, and they rambled about forlorn and friendless, unpitied and unknown. Accident brought them to the knowledge of Mrs. Trimmer, who from the moment of her being acquainted with their distresses, exerted herself in various ways for their relief. The man was set to work, and every thing that kindness could do to relieve the wants of the poor young woman, was tried by the few charitable neighbours who were acquainted with her situation; but despondency, and the fear that her offended parents should find out that she was receiving assistance from the hand of charity, made it difficult to prevail upon her to accept of the assistance of which she stood so much in need; she was however prevailed upon to receive nourishing food ready prepared for her, warmer clothing, and some other comforts, but still her mind was so depressed, and her body so emaciated, that not much could be done. By an unexpected opportunity, Mrs. Trimmer discovered the name of her parents, and the place of their abode, and wrote to to them the following letters.

TO ————, ESQ.

Sir,

Though I am an entire stranger, I hope you will excuse my troubling you with a letter, for in-

deed I am irresistibly impelled by the common feelings of humanity, to write to you, in behalf of an unhappy young creature, who I have accidentally heard is your daughter. About a fortnight ago, I first met with her, and from her behaviour discovered that she was not of the mean original which her dress and other circumstances indicated. It is impossible to describe to you her wretched situation, lodged in a miserable garret, emaciated with long fasting, entirely helpless, and labouring under extreme dejection of mind; which, altogether, have thrown her into a complication of disorders, which threaten to put a speedy period to her life; for she is greatly altered even in the short time I have known her, though care has been taken to supply her with nourishment sufficient to sustain nature.

I will not attempt, Sir, to extenuate her offence, I am a parent myself, and can feel for you and Mrs. ——, as well as for your *wretched daughter;* but however proper it may have been to show *resentment*, I cannot believe that you would wish her to *perish;* which I really think she will do, if something is not speedily done. Before I saw her she had (as I am credibly informed) lived fourteen weeks upon bread and water only, though she suckles a young infant, who contributes to her decay, and seems to partake her illness.

As I can easily judge how disagreeable it must be to you, to be put in mind of the unhappy connection, I would not mention her husband; but that

justice requires me to say, he bears the character of honesty and sobriety; and has been starving with her; neither is it owing to idleness in him that his wife is in so deplorable a condition, but to an impossibility to procure constant employment at this season of the year; for whenever he can get so much as a day's work, he carries his earnings home, and, with the most scrupulous exactness, pays his weekly rent of the apartment they inhabit; and has not contracted any debt whatever. I can further assure you, upon my word, that neither your daughter, nor her husband, is aware of my writing; nor have I given them the least intimation that I am in possession of her secret, which she has repeatedly declared to me, she never *will reveal;* nor do I find that the man has divulged it to any one.

I will not use many arguments to excite your tenderness, for I hope that nature will prove a more powerful advocate than myself. Let me only most earnestly entreat you, Sir, to listen to her dictates. I do not ask you to admit the unhappy delinquent to your presence; but merely to save the lives of her and her infant babe!

Permit me, therefore, to petition you for a small weekly allowance, and I will readily see, that it is expended for your daughter's benefit. I will remove her into a retired lodging, where the eye of idle curiosity shall not find her. Such a place I at present know of, but it is *unfurnished*; would you have the goodness to order her a bed, and a few

other necessaries, the weight of accumulated woe would be a little relieved. Forget, my good Sir, those offences which have brought these severe chastisements upon her. Regard her as your beloved child; but if you cannot embrace her with affection as a daughter, at least reach out the hand of charity towards her as your fellow creature.

If it is your wish, I will conceal from her that this seasonable relief comes from *your hand*, but for God's sake do not refuse it. I think she will not live long to trouble you, but some advice she certainly ought to have, and such if it is your pleasure, I can easily procure for her. I will only add, that if you will take the trouble of enquiring, you will easily learn that Mr. Trimmer, and myself, are not persons who would interfere in your family concerns, were it not from motives of compassion, and you may depend upon it, that we shall act in this matter with a delicate regard to *your situation in life*.

I am, Sir,

Your humble servant,

SARAH TRIMMER.

TO MRS. ——.

Madam,

As I wrote by yesterday's post to Mr. ——, it may appear doubly officious in me to write to

you also, I therefore beg leave to say, in excuse for myself, that whoever undertakes to befriend the wretched, should, I think, exert every effort in their behalf. It is possible that Mr. ——, may be from home when my letter arrives, I cannot therefore, refrain from informing you, that I have accidentally discovered a daughter of yours, pining for want in a miserable garret, and suffering with every aggravation the punishment of disobedience to parents. I do not pretend to know, Madam, all the provocations she has given you and her father; I have only learnt from her own mouth, that she wanders about the world, a wretched outcast on account of her having brought disgrace on her family, by an improper marriage. Her parents name she carefully conceals. I will not attempt to exculpate her, Madam; it is certainly just, that she should be made sensible of her offence by suffering the consequences of it for a time, but as no human being is perfect, we are required to correct with lenity, and to forgive, as we expect forgiveness, and I make no doubt you will be ready to show mercy, when I assure you, that your daughter has for a long time been in the most humiliating distress. I will not wound your feelings by a circumstantial description of the miseries which I cannot behold without pain, it will I dare say, be sufficient for you to know that the unhappy sufferer stands in need of your maternal assistance. I apprehend her to be in a deep decline, and she seems sensible of her danger; nay, comforts her-

self with the hope, that her misery will soon be at an end. How far her disorder may be within the reach of medicine, I do not know, but left to nature, I am firmly of opinion, that she will soon sink into the grave. Let me, therefore, entreat you, Madam, to commiserate her condition; let her not perish among strangers for want of mere necessaries. An abstinence of fourteen weeks, added to distress of mind, has I fear ruined her constitution; but medicine and nourishment, with a distant hope of forgiveness, may possibly restore her, at least it will be a comfort to you, to know that you have not by excessive rigour hastened the death of your child. I am sorry to be the writer of so unwelcome a letter, but humanity urges me to give you this trouble.

I am, Madam,

Your humble servant,

SARAH TRIMMER.

Unhappily her father was too much irritated to desire a reconciliation even after the pathetic representation of her distresses had reached him; some relief was however sent for her, sufficient to furnish a comfortable room, and to pay a woman for attending her, a small weekly allowance was likewise granted, and with this and the fruits of her husband's industry, she might have been comparatively well off; but the canker of sickness

and sorrow had taken too deep root, and she never regained either her health or her cheerfulness. After some months passed in Brentford, under the superintending care of Mrs. Trimmer, she was invited by her mother to the dwelling of a woman, who had formerly been her nurse, and who lived near her parents; thither she went with her infant under a promise to return to her husband as soon as her health was better, and she had seen, as she hoped to do, her offended parents. Whether the journey was too much for her in her weak state, or the agitation of her mind over-set her, is not known, but soon after her removal, news was brought of her extreme illness, and afterwards of her death. Her child too, it was said, shared the fate of its mother. It was, however, a great satisfaction to Mrs. Trimmer, and the other friends who joined with her in this charitable work, that every thing had been done that the melancholy case would admit of; and to Mrs. Trimmer in particular, it was consoling, that in consequence of the representations she had made of the situation of this poor young creature, she had been placed near her own family in her dying hour.

How fatal are the consequences of disobedience! how destructive the unrelenting severity of offended parents! O ye who are conscious of error, forgive as ye hope to be forgiven!

CONTINUATION OF THE

JOURNAL FOR THE YEAR 1794.

July 13. Welcome sweet hours of retirement, devoted to pious meditation! welcome sweet hours of retirement, in which I can commune with my own heart, and be still! in which I can commune with my God and Saviour, and anticipate in some degree the enjoyments of heaven! O Almighty Father, dearly do I love thy law; highly do I prize thy word, most earnestly do I desire to do thy holy will on earth. Most fervently do I hope to find admittance to thy glorious presence in Heaven, when I quit this mortal state. Yet, alas! Holy Father, how unworthy am I of the honour and blessedness to which I aspire! I am conscious, O Lord God, of my manifold sins and infirmities. I know that I am not worthy of the least of all thy mercies; that I have in numberless instances offended against thy holy laws. But I have an all-powerful Intercessor with thee, on whose merits alone, my hopes of pardon and acceptance are fixed; Holy Father, vouchsafe to pardon me for my dear

Redeemer's sake! O divine Lord, Son of the Father, Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, receive the prayer which I now offer unto thee as the Mediator between God and mankind. Dear and beloved Saviour, have compassion upon me, plead for me; cover me with the robe of thy righteousness. Blessed Lord, I have this day received the Sacrament; I have commemorated thy dying love; may I find the efficacy of this holy institution! may I have fresh supplies of grace to fulfil the purposes of my soul: accept my humble services, and give thy blessing to them. O let me, let me feed thy lambs! despise not thy *hand-maiden!* thou knowest my heart, thou seest the affection with which it is at this time filled; delightful sentiments; O that I could for ever retain them, but in this earthly state it cannot be. To-morrow at the farthest, the cares of this life will occupy it; I must wait with patience till my change comes; then when I shall have put off mortality and corruption, I trust, I shall be constantly filled with these devout affections, which, but to *taste* is rapture and extacy! Certain it is, that happiness may be enjoyed here below, sufficiently to make the soul long for admission into those blest regions where it reigns eternally. My soul truly longeth for God, for the living God! for the pleasures which are at the right hand of God. But adorable Saviour, without thee I can never hope to see God; with-

out thee I can never hope to partake of heavenly bliss. Blessed Lord, I devote myself to thee once more, purposing to be thy true and faithful disciple; I desire to follow thy blessed example; to obey thy precepts; to do thy work. O help me by thy Spirit to fulfil the purposes of my heart! hoping for thy divine favour, and trusting in thy divine aid, I will now offer up my humble thanksgivings to the throne of grace.

Almighty Father, great and numberless have been thy mercies to me, thy poor creature, and I desire, with a grateful heart, to offer unto thee the tribute of thanksgiving. O what am I, that thou shouldst so regard me! Most mighty God! I know that in comparison of thee I am nothing, nay worse than nothing, for I am a miserable sinner. Thou hast created me, thou hast given me an immortal soul, but I have not lived agreeably to thy will in all things, as was my bounden duty. Yet thou hast spared me! yet thou hast given me hopes of salvation through a crucified Saviour! O merciful and gracious God, I thank thee with my whole heart for my creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life, but above all, for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, and for the hopes of glory. I thank thee for the comfort of dutiful children. I thank thee for thy fatherly care of them since thou wert pleased to take their earthly father from them. I thank thee for the heavenly

consolation thou hast afforded to me in my state of widowhood. Almighty Father, in thee is my trust; never wilt thou forsake us while we keep to thy commandments. May thy will be done by me and mine in all things! O help our infirmities, pity our weaknesses. O Lord, gracious art thou and merciful. May we never forfeit thy loving kindness by wilful disobedience. May we be admitted to thy glorious presence hereafter. It is thy will that we should learn of thy dear Son how to please thee, holy Father. I will study the Gospel of thy Son. May thy Spirit open my mind to comprehend all the divine truths which are written for our learning.

July 19. O Lord, I most graciously beseech thee to give thy heavenly benediction to my dear son, who is this day going to engage in the holy state of matrimony. May he find in the object of his affections a kind and loving wife, and may they live in harmony together as long as thou shalt see fit to continue their lives; serving thee, and loving one another, and bringing up their children, if thou art pleased to give them any, in thy faith and fear. Blessed and adorable Saviour, thou wast once present at a marriage feast, and didst testify by a miracle thy approbation of this sacred union between man and woman. Vouchsafe to be present this day, to bless my dear son and his chosen helpmate.

July 20. As I am not conscious of any particular sins but such as I humbly trust my heavenly

Father will, in compassion to the infirmities of my nature, pardon for my dear Redeemer's sake, I will not at this time give way to sorrow for the commission of them; but will rather indulge the disposition I at present feel to rejoice in the Lord. O Lord, I do rejoice with thankfulness, in thy infinite goodness, which has given to sinners encouragement to hope for forgiveness and favour. O Lord, I know and confess, that but for thy promises, I could have no foundation to build these hopes upon; and without these hopes I should be a miserable creature. Vouchsafe to receive my acknowledgments of thy goodness. God of my life, how can I testify my gratitude towards thee? O that I could serve thee like the angels in heaven! may I be found hereafter among them! Gracious Father, how can I thank thee sufficiently for the hopes of eternal felicity? How can I sufficiently thank thee for the blessings and comforts thou in thy great goodness dost afford to me in this mortal state! How bountiful art thou! How often dost thou make my widowed heart to sing for joy! Let the feelings of my heart speak what words cannot express. Most holy Father! merciful God! I beseech thee to continue to me and mine thy heavenly benediction. In thee is my trust, let me never be confounded.

Aug. 17. How quickly do the Sabbaths come round! six parts out of seven of the time allotted us on earth pass insensibly away while we are engaged in worldly pursuits. The return of the

Sabbath is comfortable and delightful to those who love God; and could we but raise our thoughts from earth, and fix them entirely upon heavenly things, how much more delightful would the Sabbath be! very seldom am I able to do this till the evening of the Sabbath, when I retire to this place to meditate in private; and then I have often a foretaste of heavenly joys, at least I have some faint idea of the nature of them, I think; enough to make me long to quit this earthly existence, to enter on a higher and better state. But my days of probation are not yet expired. God only knows how soon they may end. I must endeavour to keep myself prepared against my Lord's coming. — — — — — — — —

O merciful and gracious Father, Lord God Almighty, penetrated with the deepest sense of thine infinite goodness and condescension, in encouraging a poor weak sinful mortal thus to address thee, and heartily sorry for my sins and offences, I most humbly beseech thee to pardon me for Jesus Christ's sake, thy Son and my Saviour. O Lord God, merciful Father, I offer and present unto thy divine Majesty my humblest praises and thanksgivings for all thy goodness and loving kindness. I bless thee for thy great goodness in preserving me and my dear children for so long a time from sickness. I bless thee for providing so comfortably for us, for granting to us domestic peace and harmony, and above all, for keeping us, as I humbly trust, in the way of peace and holiness.

O merciful God, how good and gracious art thou. When I would reckon up thy mercies, they are more than I am able to express; and they are crowned with the hope of glory and immortality. O Lord, I aspire, through faith in Christ Jesus, I aspire after heavenly joys. When shall I come and appear before thee? When shall I behold thy presence in righteousness? Not till I have put off this sinful nature, and am washed in the blood of the Lamb. Gracious God, with what pleasure do I contemplate on thy divine nature! how glad I am to have my faith in the Holy Trinity confirmed! evermore by thy grace keep me stedfast in this comfortable faith.

Aug. 24. O how I sometimes feel the loss of my dear departed husband! but thanks to the goodness of the Almighty, my sorrow is softened, and I can think of him with pleasure and comfort. I cherish the sweet hope of meeting him again in heaven, of passing an eternity with him. O my dearest husband, thy virtues are dear to my recollection; my heart exults whenever I call to mind any good action of thine. How tender and compassionate wast thou to the widow and the fatherless, in taking a certain youth with a design to relieve his mother from the care and expence he occasioned her. How amply has God blessed thy widow and fatherless children. I love to think that we enjoy blessings, perhaps, for thy dear sake.

Sept. 20. Thirty-two years are this day completed since I gave my hand to the best of husbands. At this hour I was putting on the bridal attire, and with a heart full of tender affection, I was preparing to go to the altar, and there to vow love and obedience to the man of my choice. It is now more than two years ago, since it pleased the Almighty, by an instantaneous stroke of Providence, to deprive me of this dear husband. I cannot see the return of this day, without reflecting upon the great blessing it procured to me, or without thinking of the loss I have sustained. But I remember the blessing with gratitude to the Giver of all good; and I reflect on my loss with resignation to his holy will. O gracious Father! I desire with all humility and gratitude to offer unto thee my most ardent thanksgivings for thy unspeakable goodness, in giving me so good a husband, and in sparing him to me so long. And I do with inexpressible gratitude praise thy goodness for supporting me under the loss of him, and for every instance of thy loving kindness and tender pity to me in my state of widowhood, and to my children. I cannot be called *desolate*, nor my children *fatherless*, while thou, O God, carest for us. Gracious God! I do with unfeigned gratitude thank and praise thee for the comfortable hopes which give such consolation to my widowed heart, that my dear husband is among the redeemed of the Lord, and that I shall hereafter meet him in the kingdom of heaven,

never more to be separated. As these hopes mix themselves with my best thoughts, I humbly trust they are not offensive to thee. O gracious Father, dear as these hopes are, if I thought they were offensive to thy divine Majesty, I would no longer indulge them. — — — — — — —

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— — — — I trust that when I die, I shall find admittance where I hope so many dear relatives are gone before, and where many others, I trust, will follow. O I could meditate for ever on the joys of eternity, did not frail flesh forbid. The earthly body presses down the soul, but it will not always be so. Rise, rise my soul on the wings of devotion, and join with angels and archangels in the praises of the Lord. O God, the King of Glory, that dwellest between the cherubims, in light which cannot be approached, and who yet, with astonishing condescension, lookest down to this earth, inhabited by sinful mortals, vouchsafe to receive my humble adorations! adorable Saviour, accept the homage of a soul redeemed by thee! Divine Spirit, accept the adoration of a soul sanctified by thee! With angels and archangels, and all the company of heaven, I laud and magnify thy holy name, O Lord God, Father Almighty, Son of God, eternal Saviour, O Holy Ghost, the Comforter and Sanctifier, glory be to thee most adorable Trinity!

Sept. 28. — — — — — — —

O Almighty Father, with a heart truly sensible of

my own sinfulness and infirmity, I desire to humble myself before thee, acknowledging my unworthiness, and thy bountiful goodness. Thou knowest that I love thee with all my heart, with all my mind, and with all my strength: that strength, alas! is but weakness, but thou knowest my inward frame. O heavenly Father! I do rejoice in thy infinite goodness. I lay hold of the hopes which thy gracious promises afford. I fly to the cross of my merciful Redeemer. I look up to that with faith. I see my Saviour, with the eye of faith, making intercession for *me*. I see thee, gracious Father, with the eye of faith, I see thee, receiving the intercession of my Redeemer. O gracious God, let me not deceive myself? Surely I cannot magnify thy goodness beyond due bounds. O no, it is boundless, it is infinite, it extends to all thy creatures. Nothing but a wilful continuance in sin can shut any one out from thy mercy. I abhor all kind of wickedness. I desire to cast out of my heart whatever in it is offensive to thee. O that I could be pure, even as my Saviour is pure; but I have been defiled by many sins; yet I am washed, I am sanctified, I have been baptized, I have been sprinkled with the blood of the Lamb. O gracious Father, for my dear Redeemer's sake, continue thy favourable kindness to me; let me still rejoice in thy love. Lord of all things! I most humbly and heartily beseech thee to keep under thy divine protection

me and my dear family, and grant us all we stand in need of for our souls and bodies. Keep us this night from all dangers, spiritual and temporal; and if it be thy good pleasure to bring us in health and safety to the beginning of a new day, give us grace to pass it, and every succeeding one, to thy honour and glory, the good of our fellow-creatures, and our own peace and satisfaction. And, O merciful Father, grant that we may finally attain the blessings of eternity. Amen! Amen!

Dear and adorable Saviour, receive, I most humbly beseech thee, my tribute of grateful homage and thanksgiving for thy goodness to me. To thy merits I am indebted for all the goodness I have experienced. The peace I have enjoyed was thy legacy; a gift designed for thy disciples. I will study thy Gospel, every page of which is full of divine instruction. How delightful it is to my soul! O that I may be able to explain it to the poor.

Oct. 12. Another week of my life is past and gone: I am come to the conclusion of another Sabbath, and a Sabbath it has truly been to me, for I have in it found, rest unto my soul. — —

Far be it from me, to think that I am *entitled* to the favour of Heaven; that I have a *right* to the protection of the Almighty on account of my poor services! I know my own demerits; I am conscious that I am not only an unprofitable servant, but a sinner also; my confidence has no other foundation than the promises of God, in

Christ Jesus our Lord: but they are a rock of adamant to build upon. — — — — —

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Almighty and merciful Father, God of all consolation, I desire with an humble and thankful heart to acknowledge thy late mercies to me and dear family. O Lord, I feel thy goodness beyond what I am able to express. Truly may I call thee, the husband of the widow, the father of the fatherless, for such thou hast graciously been to me and mine. O gracious God, it is my earnest desire to do thy will, to follow thy commandments, to gain thy favour. Grant me, I most earnestly beseech thee, grace to do so. I offer and present to thee, gracious God, my humblest thanksgivings for every instance of thy mercy and goodness, for those which I remember with gratitude, for those which have escaped my recollection, and for those which I have carelessly suffered to pass unnoticed. To thy fatherly protection I humbly recommend myself and children, my relations, friends, and benefactors. I also pray thee, gracious God, to continue thy heavenly benediction to the nation to which I belong; and I beseech thee to preserve from open enemies, and secret conspirators, our good king and all his family. Keep thy household, the Church, with thy perpetual mercy, and let not the designs of the devil and his angels prevail against it. Glory be to thee, O Lord God, adorable Trinity.

Oct. 19. — — — — — — —
I resolve to keep God in my thoughts, and heaven in my view; to trust in the Lord with all my might, and not to lean to my own understanding; to acknowledge him in all my ways, humbly trusting that he will, by his grace and goodness, direct my paths.

These, most gracious and merciful God, are the sincere resolutions of a heart devoted to thy service; a heart truly desirous to do thy holy will, to obey thy commandments. But what, O Father Almighty, can I do without thy help? Alas! nothing. I therefore pray thee most earnestly to give me thy grace. O Lord, hear me when I cry unto thee for the help of thy Holy Spirit. I confess, that I have, in numberless instances, transgressed thy holy laws, and I am truly sorry that I have done so, but I believe in thy promises. I trust in a merciful Redeemer, and am full of hope and humble confidence that my offences are pardoned, and will not be brought forth in judgment against me. Gracious Father! behold me, I most humbly beseech thee; not as I am in my own sinful nature; not as a child of the first Adam; but as one that is washed in the blood of the Lamb. O behold me covered with the righteousness of Christ, my Redeemer, and accept me for the sake of his all-sufcient merits. O gracious Father, thou *wilt* thus accept me. O Lord, my heart rejoiceth in thy goodness. I depend upon thy promises

through Christ Jesus. I feel the holy confidence of an adopted child. O that I may live like one to the end of my life, and finally obtain an inheritance in the kingdom of thy Son, and my Saviour. O Lord God Almighty, I thank thee with my whole heart for all thy goodness to me, and my dear children, particularly for the mercies of the week past. O Lord, how sensibly have I felt thy loving kindness and tender mercies. — — —

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Methinks, when I thus retire, I am for a short space lifted above this world. Surely the delight I have experienced is of the *nature* of heavenly enjoyments. O how serene and sweet it is! every turbulent passion is subdued; all is peace and joy in the Holy Ghost. I address my humble petitions to the Father of Heaven; I pour out my soul before him; I tell of his mercy and goodness; I implore his favour and protection. I fly to my Saviour; I plead his merits; I profess my faith in them; I glorify my God. Surely this is heavenly employment. I will lift up my soul; words cannot express its feelings. Father of the Universe! Author of all being! God of all perfection! Thou with the eternal Son and Spirit art worthy to be praised and had in honour.

O eternal King! Creator Infinite! accept my humblest thanksgivings, my fervent adorations. O Lord, merciful Father, great Parent of the Universe! may all created beings do thee homage. How great, how good, how wonderful art thou!

O Lord, when I contemplate thy greatness, I sink into nothing before thee. O Lord, were I one of the heavenly host, I could not behold thy glory in its full splendour; as a poor mortal, if I but think of it, I am overcome. O Lord, how shall I hereafter support the glorious vision? O transport of expectation; O joy inexpressible!—I must fall into silence. — — — — —

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Oct. 26. How has this evening been trifled away in frivolous conversation; but I could not avoid it without the appearance of ostentation. Gladly would I have preferred retirement and meditation. I have now scarcely any time left for that employment which is the joy and comfort of my life; but I cannot close my eyes in peace without recording some of the mercies bestowed upon me and mine in the course of the last week.

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Merciful and gracious Father, I beseech thee to receive my supplications for pardon and peace and joy in the Holy Ghost; and my humble thanksgivings for all thy mercies and benefits. I beseech thee to give me grace to do thy will, and keep thy commandments. To thee, I humbly commit all my affairs, both spiritual and temporal, trusting in thine infinite compassion, and the merits of a crucified Redeemer.

O divine Saviour, my Master, my Lord and my God! on thy merits alone are all my hopes of salvation placed. I know that in me, that is, in my

flesh, is no good work; but thou, O Saviour, hast fulfilled all righteousness. Dear Lord, how do I regret that I have been hindered this evening from spiritual exercises, from studying the Gospel.

Nov. 2. Another sacred evening has been trifled away. O how do I regret the loss! however I am at length in my closet. I have shut my door. I wish to pray to my Heavenly Father who seeth in secret. — — — — — — —

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Almighty and merciful Father, great God, the high and mighty One, that inhabitest eternity, I most humbly acknowledge myself to be a miserable sinner, undeserving of the least of all thy mercies; and if I was not encouraged by thy goodness to look up to thee for pardon, I could not dare to implore thy forgiveness of my manifold offences. But, O Father Almighty, I trust in thy divine promises through Jesus Christ my Saviour, and look up to thee with humble confidence, not doubting but that, in thine infinite goodness and compassion, thou wilt forgive me, and continue to me thy loving kindness, which is better than the life itself.

O gracious Father, how wonderful is thy goodness! When I consider thy majesty and greatness, and my own littleness, imperfection, and sinfulness, I am astonished that thou shouldst even notice me. Lord God of heaven and earth, I humble myself before thee; I magnify thee, O Lord my God; I acknowledge thy goodness to be greater than words can express, or thought conceive. I am

sensible of my manifold infirmities. I desire to please thee, by acting according to thy will and commandments; but of myself I am not able to do it. Vouchsafe me the help of thy Holy Spirit, that I may please thee both in will and deed. Thou knowest all my wants, my necessities, and my desires. O Lord, I beseech thee to order all events that are likely to befal me, and every one of my family, for our ultimate, our eternal happiness. I further beseech thee to regulate all our desires, and incline our hearts to thy testimonies, and not to covetousness, or any other evil thing. Let us ever remember our heavenly inheritance, and not risk the loss of our supreme good for any of the trifles of this vain world. O gracious Father, I most humbly and earnestly beseech thee to enable me to guide my words with discretion. Dear and adorable Saviour, I have been hindered from meditating upon thy Gospel; but I will remember thee upon my bed, and think of thee in my wakeful hours. I have already gained some knowledge of thy holy word, but not equal to my desires. O that I could imprint upon my mind every circumstance of thy blessed example, and every precept of thy heavenly doctrine. O that I had power to follow the one, and understand the other to perfection! To do so shall be the study of my future life. Dear Lord, I consider it as the highest honour I can enjoy upon earth, to be instrumental in propagating thy

glorious Gospel. I will not remit my zeal through any discouragements. O divine Saviour, to whom I look up for salvation, for everlasting life and happiness, receive the willing homage of my soul. O Lord, thou knowest that I love thee. Give me the fruits of thy divine love, sweet inward peace, comfortable hope, a true faith, and all the consolations of the Holy Ghost. O that I could cast out every thing from my heart that is offensive in thy sight, my Lord and my Saviour!

Nov. 16. I now find myself at full leisure and liberty for my spiritual exercises; for the sweet employment to which I have devoted the Sunday evenings. Away from my mind all worldly cares. Away from me all trifling thoughts. Enter into thyself, O my soul, and take a view of thy present state. How has the last week passed? — —

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I feel at this moment a degree of peace and serenity which I humbly hope proceeds from the Spirit of God; I feel an inclination to rejoice in the goodness of the Lord: surely I may safely give way to this desire—I will do so. O what blessings and comforts are daily bestowed upon me!

O merciful and gracious Father, God of my life, Author of my being, in whom alone I live and move; without whom I should have been nothing, or worse than nothing, a poor miserable lost sinner; I rejoice in thine infinite goodness,

and thank thee with an unfeigned heart. O Lord, I rejoice and am thankful, that thou hast hitherto preserved me, and provided for my sustenance. O how largely have I partaken of thy bounties during my existence in this world! How many kind and affectionate relatives hast thou given me! What a kind and tender husband didst thou allot me! What dutiful children hast thou blessed me with! How graciously hast thou comforted me under all the trials and tribulations to which thou hast seen fit to expose me! O merciful Father, when I call to mind these instances of thy goodness, my gratitude is too great for utterance.

Rejoice in the Lord, O my soul, and give thanks for a remembrance of his holiness! thanks, gracious God, are all I have to offer for benefits and mercies innumerable. God of my life! I love thee with all my heart, with all my soul, and with all my strength; that strength alas! is but weakness, but had I higher faculties, I would offer thee more exalted praise and adoration.

O angelic host, ye blessed and happy spirits, I do with a faithful heart, love the God whom ye adore: O that I could praise him like you! Almighty Father, Lord, of all things in Heaven and earth! pardon the presumption of a poor sinner, who thus strives to join thy heavenly host. O Lord, I feel at this instant how unworthy I am to do so. But I am, I trust, a member of Christ, as such thou wilt not despise me. I am, I hope, among the number of

thy adopted children for Jesus Christ's sake; I trust there is an inheritance provided for me in the kingdom of thy dear Son; I trust, I am an heir of glory. Suffer me then, O most gracious Father, with Angels and Archangels to magnify thy glorious name; O most adored God, I honour thee with all the powers of my soul; I desire to do thy will with all my abilities, both of body and mind; I lift up my heart unto thee, I beseech thee, merciful God! to pardon all my sins for Jesus Christ's sake. I beseech thee to fill me with thy Holy Spirit, that I may be cleansed from all defilement, and strengthened to do my duty. O Lord, how sensibly do I feel thy goodness to me in my state of widowhood! how plainly do I discern the ways of thy Providence! O Lord, how wonderful art thou in all thy works of Creation, Providence, and Grace! Lord, thou knowest all the wishes and desires of my heart; I hope and trust, I have none at this time that are contrary to thy will and commandments. My first desire is to please and obey thee, most gracious and merciful Father, by following the example of thy dear Son, my adorable Saviour. My next desire is to do my duty in every relation of life. — — — — —

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How can I sufficiently thank thee, gracious Father, for the joy which I at this time feel in the humble confidence of being owned and loved by thee! O Lord, this is alone more than a sufficient reward for years of care! Yes, gracious God, this

thought, this hope, is of inestimable value! it is an earnest of eternal bliss; it promises immortal happiness. Thou wilt receive thy children to thyself; I shall not always grovel in the dust; I shall rise to life eternal; I shall soar above mortality; I shall behold thee in glorious majesty—O extacy of thought!

Dear and adorable Saviour! to thee I am indebted for these dear hopes, these joyful expectations: on thy merits alone are they fixed, for of myself I am nothing. No, O Lord, I could have no hopes of immortality without thee. But I know thou wilt not reject me, for I believe in thee as the Son of God; I honour thee, as I honour the Father, I love those whom thou didst vouchsafe to call thy brethren. I am willing to the utmost of my abilities to minister to the poor, to feed the hungry, to clothe the naked, to visit the sick, to comfort the prisoner: I will strive, blessed Lord, to do unto all men, as I would they should do unto me.

As one of this nation, O Lord, I beseech thee to shew forth thy power, and come among us, and with great might succour us. I trust, gracious God, that thou hast in this land many true and faithful servants, zealous for the honour of thy great Name, and the Gospel of thy blessed Son; for their sakes, O gracious God, preserve the nation, and shed thy Holy Spirit abroad into all hearts, that those who err from the right path, may return into the way of righteousness, and that

all may serve thee from the highest to the lowest. O that we may be in thy sight a holy nation! these prayers I humbly offer to thy Divine Majesty, Holy Father, in the name of Jesus Christ thy Son, the Saviour and Redeemer of Mankind. O may they find acceptance for his sake. Amen! Amen!

Dec. 7. — — — — — — — —

O eternal and gracious God, my Creator, my Preserver, my Almighty Parent, my heavenly Father! how comfortable to my mournful spirit, is the permission to address thee by the last endearing title! *my heavenly Father!* what power is there in these words to calm a troubled spirit! why art thou disquieted, O my soul? Why art thou cast down? I will thank thee, my Almighty Parent! Author of all my comforts! I will thank thee with an unfeigned heart, if not with fervency of spirit. O my God, while I thus presume to address thee as my Father, I feel an exalted sense of thy fatherly goodness which makes my heart glow with gratitude inexpressible. Surely it is an earnest to me that thou dost own me as thy child, thy adopted child, for Jesus Christ's sake. O eternal Lord God, I love thee with my whole heart; I desire to obey thy will in all things; I submit to whatever chastisement thou mayst see fit to lay upon me. I feel my dependance upon thy Providence for all things, even for the continuance of my life; I desire, I long to dwell in thy glorious presence. O how greatly do I grieve, that I should ever have offended thee! how earnestly do I be-

seech thee the to pardon me for Jesus Christ's sake. How sincerely do I resolve to walk henceforth according to thy holy laws! yet, how imperfect is my obedience! yes, gracious Father! I am very sensible that on my own account I am not worthy to be called thy child. But thou wilt receive me as such, for my dear Redeemer's sake!

Dec. 14. I love thee, O God, above all things, the husband of the widow, and the father of the fatherless! vouchsafe I most earnestly beseech thee, to continue thy compassion and tender mercies, to me and my dear family. O Lord, keep us evermore in the paths of virtue and holiness; O how can I sufficiently thank thee for thy grace, so bountifully bestowed upon my children in their youthful years! God of my life! my heart overflows with gratitude too great for utterance! I bless, I adore, I worship, I praise, I thank thee, O Lord, heavenly Father, eternal Son of God, eternal Spirit, adorable Trinity.

O most gracious Father! God of all power, might, honour, majesty and glory! I adore thine infinite perfection. I acknowledge my own littleness; I lament my sins, I take comfort in thy mercy through Christ, and I rejoice in the hope of Salvation and everlasting happiness. O Lord God, how wonderful is thy goodness to the children of men? What is man that thou art mindful of him? Or the son of man that thou visitest him? Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits! praise the Lord, O my soul, who crowneth thee

with loving kindness and tender mercies; who preserveth thy life, and provideth abundantly for thee; who defendeth thee against all enemies, spiritual and temporal, and filleth thee with comfort and hope, and peace and joy. O Lord God, as long as I have any being I will love, adore, worship, and praise thee. Without thee, I am not able to please thee, vouchsafe I most earnestly beseech thee to give me grace to see my faults, to amend my life, to practise holiness, to seek for glory and immortality. To thy fatherly goodness I most humbly recommend all my concerns, both spiritual and temporal. Vouchsafe, I beseech thee, to continue to me and all my dear children, the blessings we at present possess as long as they are good for us. O Lord, I wish to act on all occasions a just and upright part. I wish to maintain a good character in the world. I wish to perform the part of a faithful steward. I desire, under all the trials of life, to possess my soul in patience, but I can do none of these things without the help of thy Holy Spirit; for that help I pray above all things. O Lord, I *seek*, grant that I may *find*. I *knock*, grant that heaven may be opened to my prayers. I *ask*, O may I *receive*. All this I beg for Jesus Christ's sake, my Redeemer, thy Son, O heavenly Father. Amen! Amen!

O Almighty Father, I am conscious that I have committed numberless offences, and my soul is afflicted with sorrow, though I humbly trust my offences are pardoned by thee, for the sake of

my dear Redeemer, whose merits I have this day pleaded before thee, whose blessed body and blood I have this day spiritually taken and received according to his own most holy institution. Yes, merciful Father, I humbly trust, that I am washed from the defilement of sin in the precious blood of the Lamb; which was slain from the foundation of the world: I will therefore, be glad and rejoice, and will thank thee with my whole heart, in remembrance of thy infinite love and compassion to fallen man. And thee, O divine Redeemer, will I also thank for thy goodness, thy condescension, thy tender mercy. O Lord, thou knowest my present infirmity; my desire, my inability, Lord, may thy all-powerful intercession supply all my deficiencies! dear Lord, give me thy grace. Continue to me that peace which I at this time enjoy! O God of the universe, adorable Trinity, vouchsafe to preserve, protect, and guide me in the way of everlasting life; and not me only, but my dear children also. O Lord, I leave off from weariness of spirit. O when I join with my family, as I shall in a short time do, may my heart go along with my lips in prayer and praise.

Dec. 21. Turn thy thoughts inward, O my soul, and view thyself. O how greatly dost thou fall short of that degree of perfection to which even while confined in an earthly body thou mightest attain! and what art thou compared with the blessed spirits in heaven? I feel my defects, my imperfections, and am humbled. I will acknow-

ledge my transgressions with a contrite heart. Father of mercies, God of all power and greatness, infinite in majesty, infinite in perfection! my soul is humbled before thee with the sense of infirmity and guilt. Great God Almighty, had I not read what thou hast been pleased to reveal in Scripture concerning thine own divine character, I could not dare to approach thee, but thou hast proclaimed thyself to be the Lord, *the Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, of great goodness, keeping mercy for thousands.* I acknowledge thee to be the Lord; I know thee to be gracious and merciful, abundant in goodness and truth; for I, O Lord, am one among the thousand for whom thou hast kept mercy. I am one of those who have experienced the truth of thy divine promises; and praised be thy holy name for thy goodness! yet *thou wilt not clear the guilty.* But thanks to divine grace, I can be justified through the merits and satisfaction of my Redeemer. Thou, divine Saviour, shalt wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Holy Father, vouchsafe, I beseech thee, to keep me and mine under the shadow of thy wings. O lead us in the paths of peace, bless our going out, and our coming in, be about our bed, and about our path, let us lie down in peace, and rise to praise and serve thee.

Glory to thee, O Lord God, Heavenly Father, God the Father Almighty. Amen! Amen!

Having inserted some letters of Mrs. Trimmer's to a relentless father in behalf of a daughter who had disobeyed him, we here introduce two to a son, who had been neglectful of his mother. As the letters will explain in what manner Mrs. Trimmer came to the knowledge of this unhappy woman, much need not be said upon the subject, excepting that it ought to be pointed out to the reader, that the young man who had been so undutiful had to plead in his excuse a very indifferent education, and over indulgence from the mistaken fondness of his mother.

How lamentable is it to reflect upon the numbers of children who suffer from the excess of maternal tenderness, when not governed by the laws of reason and religion! Would such parents but consider the eternal interests of their offspring, they would check in themselves this fatal fondness, and put an early restraint upon the passions, and upon the wayward fancies of their children!

The young man to whom these letters were addressed lost his father early in life, and had, alas! so much hold on the affections of his mother, that she knew not how to refuse him any thing: it was her intention to bring him up to a respectable trade, and for this purpose he was bound apprentice, but during his apprenticeship he was so thoughtless and idle, that he was judged unfit for his business, and partly in compliance with his

wishes, and partly because they knew not what to do with him, his line of life was changed, and a commission in the army purchased for him. When he became of age, he was careless and extravagant, and soon squandered the greatest part of his little property, and when sent upon service to the West Indies, sunk the rest in coffee plantations, which did not answer. He however got on in the army, and could have supplied his mother in the humble way in which she would have been satisfied to live without any difficulty to himself; but the same thoughtless habits continued, and at the time his aged parent was wandering about without a place to lay her head, he was the commander of a fort in one of the West India islands, and in the receipt of sixteen hundred a-year. In the years 1788 and 1789, he met with misfortunes, and, perhaps, some ill treatment, for he was dismissed from his command of the fort without any thing being alledged against him, and apparently merely to make room for another officer. A letter of his to his mother, in one of those years is now extant, written with expressions of kindness and promises of remittances; but still no remittances came; and having by some means or other been deprived of a small annuity, the only thing upon which she had to depend, she was reduced to the most extreme want. Her excessive fondness for her son had led her into many difficulties, and occasioned her to act so improperly in some respects that her friends, wearied out with her folly and,

her importunities, had cast her off, and she had no resource but applying to the parish for relief; her pride would not suffer her to do this, where she had lived so differently, and she preferred wandering about from place to place, too proud to solicit the hand of charity, yet frequently indebted to strangers for a small temporary relief.

In the year 1792 she was lodged in a house in Brentford, which was the receptacle of travellers of the lowest cast, but kept by people who were not without the feelings of humanity, and, in some degree, of a better sort than those who usually gain their livelihood by letting lodgings to beggars. During her abode here, she frequently went whole days with only a glass of cold water, and would have been entirely starved but for the charitable assistance of the people with whom she lodged, and also of her companions in distress, who sometimes divided with her their scanty meal. Driven at last to despair, she was going to put an end to her existence, but was prevented by a woman who lodged in the same room, and who prevailed on her to suspend the blow till she had been to a benevolent lady in the neighbourhood to represent her situation. The poor woman carried her tale to Mrs. Trimmer, who having some knowledge of her, and likewise of the people with whom she lodged, visited Mrs. L—— in her miserable abode, persuaded her to leave it, and promised to find shelter for her under a better roof till her son could be made acquainted with her situation, and

something obtained from him for her support. Mrs. Trimmer having found for her an asylum, wrote the following letter to Capt. L——.

TO CAPT. L——.

Brentford, October 1, 1792.

Sir,

It will without doubt be matter of surprise to you to receive a letter from a stranger. I heartily wish the contents of it were of a more pleasing nature, but I hope you will find in it some information which will compensate for the pain it must necessarily occasion. I will begin with the latter because I would spare your feelings as much as possible. Your aged mother lives, Sir, and is at this time under the care of a family who compassionate her distress, and endeavour to give her every degree of comfort in their power; but it is impossible to soothe her sorrows effectually without your concurrence. A letter from you, with a remittance, would be the best of cordials to her almost broken heart. If she does not receive it, I fear she will soon sink into the grave!

I know you will be greatly shocked to hear it, and yet it is requisite you should know, that she came to my house three weeks ago, a wretched half-distracted wanderer, in search of some intelligence concerning her son. She was at that time

without the most trifling means of subsistence, and in a state of absolute despair: her bread she could not beg, and often did she go whole days without taking any further refreshment than a draught of cold water, till at last she was driven to the most melancholy despondency, and had it not pleased God to make me the instrument of her preservation, she would before now have perished, and in a way which I forbear to mention!

The letters which you wrote to her in 1788 and 1789, have been worn next her heart till they are almost destroyed, but they recommended her to my particular attention, and served to convince me that you are not charged with wilful neglect of an affectionate and indulgent parent. The enquiries I have since (with a view to Mrs. L.'s ease of mind) been led to make confirm this opinion, and I am not unacquainted with your ill success in the West Indies, and your unmerited disappointment from the late Lord E——, therefore I have not formed expectations of your having it in your power to make remittances to a considerable amount, but am persuaded filial affection will incline you to make every exertion in your power, and even to put yourself to inconveniencies rather than deny your poor mother a small stipend to supply her pressing necessities in the last stage of her existence upon earth. I have lodged her, Sir, in the house of a poor woman, who is very tender-hearted; here she has a change of linen, whole-

some food, and a clean bed, comforts to which she has long been a stranger, and which I have engaged to supply her with from a collection I have made for her; beyond that I dare say you will not wish her to subsist on the bounty of strangers, but will hasten to send her that which alone can cheer her drooping spirits, and render her latter days comfortable. I am sorry to say that her health is very indifferent, but she is in point of intellect very collected. I hope no new disappointment will happen to derange her mind again!

I have asked Mrs. L. whether she chose to insert a line or two in this letter, but she is not equal to the exertion. I will try to get her to write her name if I find I can do it without hurting her, but I should hope you would not hesitate to believe the authenticity of this letter, which probably will be confirmed by one from Mr. T——— to Mr. R———. Mrs. J———, who engaged to take care of your mother, lost her husband soon after, and being left in indifferent circumstances, left W——, and we cannot get any intelligence of her. Mrs. L. conjectures that she may have intercepted the remittances promised to her, as none of them have ever reached her hands. Mr. Jones never called on her. Your good parent gives her love and blessing, and hopes she shall not long live a burden upon you. Please to direct your answer to this to Mrs.

Trimmer, near Kew Bridge, Brentford, Middlesex.

I am, Sir,

Your humble Servant,

SARAH TRIMMER.

This letter did not produce an answer at the time expected: Mrs. Trimmer, therefore, who, during the interval had made many inquiries concerning Mrs. L—— and her son, and was become pretty well acquainted with their history, was assisted by different people, some of whom were acquainted with the young man, and wrote to him, others to friends of his in the island of ————, and at length, in March 1793, a letter arrived to Mrs. Trimmer, written in civil terms, but not with any great appearance of feeling for the situation of his distressed parent, and enclosing a bill of exchange upon some person in Scotland of 10l. This bill gave great trouble to Mrs. Trimmer, and was not in the end accepted; and having in the mean time heard no very favourable report of Capt. L——, she wrote to him the following letter.

Brentford, April 28, 1793.

Sir,

Your letter of the 10th March, in which was enclosed one for Mrs. L——, containing a bill of

exchange for 10l. came to my hands two days ago; and most seasonably did it arrive! for had it been delayed a very short time longer, your unhappy parent would either have been in a *workhouse*, or (which I believe would much sooner have been her choice) once more *wandering about, not knowing from day to day where to lay her head.* The *sight* of a letter from you has so agitated her spirits, that she is not yet capable of enjoying the comfort of it; but I hope in a few days her mind will be more composed, and that your kindness will have the effect you doubtless intended it should produce. The letter which you mention to have written in answer to mine of the 2d of October, never reached me; judge then, Sir, what must have been your poor mother's sufferings during so many months of painful suspense, in which she has been entirely dependant upon strangers for the bare necessaries of life! For nearly *eight months,* I have with the assistance of several benevolent friends, contrived to maintain her; but the best accommodation that could be afforded her was the share of an apartment belonging to a poor widow, consisting of a lodging in a room, in which sleeps also the woman and three children; and a seat in the day-time by the fireside of a room, where the woman washes, irons, and does all her household business: you would be greatly shocked, Sir, to see your mother even in *this situation,* and yet so greatly does it *exceed*

what she had before been obliged to submit to, that she thought herself in *heaven* when she first rested her poor weary limbs in it; for it afforded a shelter from the inclemency of the weather; and she had the additional comforts of cleanliness and a friend. Mean and inconvenient as this lodging is, it could not be obtained at less expence than two shillings a week, though I supplied the bed and bedding. The food Mrs. L—— lives upon is of the cheapest kind. I sometimes furnish her with a little wine, but she is scrupulous of drinking it.

About six weeks ago the little fund I had raised for Mrs. L—— support being nearly exhausted, and being *hopeless* of supplies from *you*, Sir, I was under the necessity of desiring her to seek relief from her *parish*, as the only expedient which appeared to offer itself; and she had *promised* that she would go to it. It was my design to send her to Bath in the stage, and I had engaged a lady of great benevolence to look in upon her sometimes and comfort her; but upon receiving unexpectedly an additional guinea, I gave it to Mrs. L——, and she determined to stay in Brentford till it was expended. I believe she had changed the *last shilling* of it when your letter arrived; and I understand, that not being able to keep her resolution of going to the work-house, she had designed to ramble away *this very day*, and throw herself once more upon the wide world!

After the dutiful expressions contained in your letter to me and to her, I hope it is unnecessary to strengthen your good resolution of "*observing the most rigid œconomy*" *yourself*, in order to succour your aged parent, whose necessities, if the *world says true*, may be in a great measure imputed to the *excess of maternal love*. I am persuaded that she still loves you with unabated fondness, for she never mentions you but with tenderness, and is ready to attribute the disappointment of remittances to any cause, rather than *your neglect* or *forgetfulness;* I most heartily wish that for *your* sake as well as *her's*, that you will be able to send her supplies; for surely it must be dreadful in the extreme, to think of a parent's suffering accumulated misery, without a friend to help her! But it is far from my desire; and very, very far indeed, from that of your poor mother, to lay an *unnecessary* weight of expence upon you. She will not want so *much* as you talk of sending her; 20l. instead of 50l. will furnish a room, and buy her the articles of clothing she wants; and *when those are procured*, she will be able to live afterwards upon 30l. per annum; *less* than this she cannot subsist upon with any comfort, and I beg you will understand, that though I am very ready to *advise* Mrs. L——— in respect to the *expenditure* of her own *money*, I cannot think of supplying her with any *myself* from this time. I have paid her *one guinea*, which was reserved

for her journey to Bath, and that is the *last* I can either *spare* or *procure* for her. My son's business leads him to attend the Jamaica coffee-house in London every week, and of course he is known to several of the Jamaica captains. His late dear father, I believe, was known to most of them; perhaps, by enquiring among them, you will be able to find a more convenient conveyance for remittances than *bills of exchange* like that you have sent me; at *all events*, I must once more *urge* it upon you, as you *love* and *respect* your mother, to be *punctual in your supplies.*

I hope soon to be able to prevail upon Mrs. L——— to write to you herself, but at present she says she is not equal to the task; she sends her love and blessing to you, with thanks for your kind remembrance of her. In respect to health, she is much the same as when I wrote last. You may depend upon hearing of her by every packet, unless something unforeseen prevents my writing.

Mrs. L——— talks of an annuity of 40l. which was bequeathed to her by Miss ———, of which she received only one year's payment. May I ask whether that is recoverable from Sir William ———'s family. I know a good channel of application if it is.

I am very sorry that your own misfortunes have for so long a time deprived you of one of the greatest pleasures in life, that of repaying *maternal*

love with *filial affection*, but I hope you will be more successful in future.

I am, Sir,

Your humble servant,

S. TRIMMER.

The style of this letter may perhaps be thought rather severe in parts, but, let it be remembered, that a good deal was requisite in order to rouse the feelings of the young man, and bring him to a sense of his duty. We are happy to add, that the letter had the desired effect: his heart was touched; his sense of honour awakened; and he wrote to his mother with affection and kindness, and to Mrs. Trimmer with proper expressions of gratitude for the benevolent part she had acted towards Mrs. L——. The letter contained also a more substantial proof of his reformation, as it enclosed a bill of exchange upon a respectable house in London for 30l. and promises of further remittances. These letters were followed by others of the same kind by almost every packet during the life-time of his mother, which, however, was not of long continuance. The fatigue of body she had experienced during her wanderings before she arrived at Brentford; the extreme abstinence she had been driven to, added to anguish of mind, exhausted nature. She never enjoyed any degree of

health from the time she came under the notice of Mrs. Trimmer, and in December, 1794, departed this life.

We cannot indeed boast that the subject of this narrative was a person of great merit, or highly deserving of regard, but it was a satisfaction to Mrs. Trimmer, that, by her assistance, under Providence, she was saved from destruction and self-murder; and that her latter days were made as comfortable as circumstances would admit of. Mrs. Trimmer also rejoiced in having been able to bring the young man to a sense of duty, and by that means having spared him the bitter pangs which he would probably have known, had his aged mother either fallen by her own hand, or perished through want and famine.

JOURNAL

FOR THE

YEAR 1795.

Jan. 1. O Father of mercies, God of all grace and goodness, how great and numberless have been the instances of thy loving kindness and tender mercies during the course of the last year! My offences have been many, and I fear some of them great, but I humbly trust thou hast graciously pardoned them for Jesus Christ's sake, my beloved, my adorable Saviour. O Father of mercies, how often hast thou refreshed my soul with the comforts of thy Holy Spirit! never hast thou refused to hearken to the prayer of *faith*, which I have offered with *unfeigned lips!* how often hast thou bestowed upon me that peace which passeth all understanding. How bountifully hast thou provided for the temporal wants of me and my dear family. O Lord, how wonderful are the ways of thy Providence and grace. O Almighty Father, I honour, I love, I adore, I worship thee

with all my heart and soul; with my present faculties I cannot fully express the gratitude I feel for thy unspeakable mercies, but now thou hast brought me to the beginning of another year, I again most solemnly devote myself to thy service; resolving, thy grace assisting me, to follow thy commandments in all things, and to endeavour to do thy blessed will. O gracious Father, vouchsafe to regard me as thine adopted child, through Christ Jesus, and bestow on me thy paternal blessing. Extend these blessings also, gracious God, to all my dear children, and keep us evermore in the path that leads to everlasting life. Defend us from all our enemies; grant us whatever we stand in need of; enable us to trust in thee, our only sure rock; our only preserver. Hear my prayers, O God of all goodness, for Jesus Christ's sake!

Jan. 11. O most gracious Father, how unworthy am I of thy loving-kindness! yet I presume to beseech thee to continue to me thy heavenly benediction. O Lord, cast me not off, I earnestly pray; in thee is my trust; in thee is my confidence; in the midst of my infirmities, my heart, I humbly trust, is most faithfully devoted to thee: yes, most merciful Father, I feel thy goodness most sensibly; I desire thy favour above all things that this world, or thousands of worlds can give! what, indeed, of happiness, or true enjoyment, can a universe bestow, if thy favour

and blessing are wanting? O most gracious God, view not my sinful actions, proceeding, I hope, from no corrupt principle, but from human infirmity; but view the sincere devotion of my heart; the ardent affection of my soul; my hunger and thirst after righteousness. O view me as one of the redeemed of Christ; as sprinkled with the blood of the Lamb. The remembrance of every deviation from duty is grievous unto me; the burden of my sins would be too heavy for me to sustain without my Saviour's aid. O Lord God Almighty, permit me to plead the merits of my Redeemer; I have faith in his blood; I have been baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; I have spiritually eaten of the body and blood of Christ. Vouchsafe still to regard me as thine adopted child in Christ Jesus. Vouchsafe to grant me thy peace and the comforts of the Holy Ghost for his sake. To these my earnest petitions, I desire, most merciful Father, to add my humble thanksgivings. O how great have been thy mercies; how unspeakable the benefits bestowed upon me! O Lord, thou hast blessed me with a bountiful hand; let me thank thee with a perfect heart. When will such a heart be mine? most gracious Father, my soul doth bless and magnify thy holy name for all thy goodness towards me and my dear children; particularly I thank thee for giving to one dear child, safe deliverance from the perils and dangers of child-birth.

Jan. 25. — — — — — — —

O my God! my soul will be satisfied when I behold thee in the sanctuary of heaven! and is it permitted to a poor weak mortal like me to aspire to the exalted bliss of beholding my Creator and Redeemer? O yes, I may indulge such hopes, if I believe and obey. What must I believe? the Gospel tells me. What must I do? that also the Gospel tells me. Is it required of me to live a life of sinless perfection? that, alas! I cannot do; my sins are already more in number than the hairs of my head; and such is my weakness and infirmity, that I fear I shall add to them every day of my life. What then shall I do to be saved? *repent and believe the Gospel.* O, most gracious Father, I do repent, I am heartily sorry for all my misdoings; I most earnestly desire to live hereafter according to thy holy will and commandments. How shall I know thy holy will? where shall I find thy commandments? they are written in thy book. O most gracious God! I will search the Scriptures; I will meditate in them day and night; I will search out the wondrous things of thy law; thy word is a lantern to my feet, and a light unto my path. O most gracious Father! I desire to confess my sins unto thee; but where is the remembrance of those I have lately committed; gone from me like a dream! surely I do not deceive myself in thinking, that the peace and quietness of conscience I at this moment feel are an earnest to me, that my sins are pardoned through the all-

powerful intercession of my dear Redeemer! I know that I have no merits; but I hope I have that which thou, my heavenly Father, wilt in thy grace and mercy accept instead of perfect righteousness. I have *faith*, and I strive to shew my faith by my *works*. O that I could abound yet more and more in works of Christian charity! but I am sore let, and hindered in running the race that is set before me.

Lord, I beseech thee to give me a heart to feel for the distresses of my fellow-creatures, and to relieve them to the utmost of my ability. O that this ability might encrease according to the calls I now have for the exercise of liberality!

Most gracious Father, I also presume to supplicate thee in behalf of the nation to which I belong. I know that it is very sinful; I know that horrible things are done in it; I know that many, both of the high and low are despisers of thy word, breakers of thy sabbath, and open contemners of the Gospel. These are great and crying sins; and if persisted in will undoubtedly bring down thy just vengeance upon us, as it has lately fallen upon other nations: but, O most merciful Father! there are still many faithful in the land; many are there who have not bowed the knee to Baal, who are zealous for thine honour; who believe the Gospel; who have faith in thy beloved Son; who are given to good works: for their sakes, O merciful Lord, avert thy judgments, I most humbly beseech thee. O save thy

people! preserve thine heritage; let us not fall a prey to a worse than heathen nation; a nation of atheists and blasphemers! Go forth, O most merciful God, with our fleets and armies; deliver us from our cruel enemies! maintain our cause, and save us from destruction for thy mercies sake. Shew forth thy Almighty power, that the heathen may know themselves to be but men! O Lord, preserve us from the evil designs of treacherous men who would betray us; and join with the enemy in destroying both church and state. Give to our senators wisdom, and confound the councils of our foes both foreign and domestic. Thou art a sure rock of defence, O be to us our shield, our castle, our deliverer. What are thousands and thousands prepared for battle, when thou art against them!

Feb. 1. How rapid is the flight of time! How short the space appears to be betwixt one sabbath and another, and yet the proportion of time allotted by the all-bountiful Creator for our worldly business, is six times greater than that which he has claimed for his own peculiar service. Who that has experienced the delights of a truly Christian sabbath, would not long and earnestly desire to pass every day in the same manner? but it cannot be! angels alone are capable of a continuation of such divine employment. The human faculties are not equal to a perpetual exercise in it; at least mine are not. But I love the sabbath of the Lord; I am truly thankful for the institution of it;

and I look forward with hope to the sabbath of eternal rest in heaven. How favourable is the sabbath-day upon earth to the accomplishment of this hope!

O most gracious and merciful Father, I beseech thee to receive with favourable kindness my humble confession of sinfulness and unworthiness. O Lord, I know that my offences have been numberless, and that I have no merit in thy sight; all my hopes are founded upon the merits and intercession of my crucified Redeemer, thy only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, for his sake I most humbly beseech thee, O Father Almighty, to pardon and blot out my sins, that they may not appear in judgment against me. Depending upon thy divine promises, I cast my cares upon thee, most humbly beseeching thee to grant me the supplies which I at this time stand in need of, both spiritual and temporal. O Lord, give me, I pray thee, good desires, and grant me the means of bringing the same to good effect, to thy honour and glory, and the benefit of my fellow-creatures.

Dear and adorable Saviour, thou knowest that I love thee. Vouchsafe to continue to me thy loving-kindness. I am very zealous for thine honour, O divine Lord! enable me, I beseech thee, to make a right use and improvement of the talent committed to me; there is nothing upon earth I desire so much as to be the humble instrument for propagating thy holy religion.

What treasure is fallen to the society which is

established to propagate the knowledge of Christianity both in this nation and in foreign lands! may it be dispensed with zeal and judgment so as to answer many good and pious ends! O divine Lord, I see with joy the exertions which are making for the relief and employment of the poor. May thy spirit direct them for the ultimate, the eternal good of the multitude, as well as for their temporal relief. May they have not only the loaves and fishes, but the bread of life dispensed to them!

Feb. 8. O most merciful and gracious Father, how great has been thy goodness to me, a poor sinful creature! I know that I am not worthy of the least of all thy favours, and yet, I trust, thou dost regard me as thy child for Jesus Christ's sake. O gracious Father! without faith in the merits of my blessed Redeemer, knowing how greatly I have offended many times against thy laws, I could not dare to address myself to thee; but encouraged by thy divine promises to mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord, I humbly trust that for his sake thou has blotted out my sins, and that my soul is washed in his most precious blood, and my inward man strengthened by the bread of life. O may I henceforth serve and please thee in newness of life, to the honour of thy great name, and the good of my immortal soul.

Most gracious Father, I humbly thank thee for all thy mercies from time to time bestowed upon me, particularly for those of the last week, more

in number than I am able to express! I beseech thee to continue to me and my dear children, the blessings we now enjoy, so long as they shall be conducive to our eternal welfare, and to grant us the supplies both of grace and temporal things which we stand in need of. To thy Providence I most humbly commit all my worldly affairs. O Lord, I beseech thee to bless all my friends and relations; to preserve this nation from the evils which threaten it; and to protect our king and government both in church and state. Grant these petitions, O Lord, for Jesus Christ's sake!

Feb. 16. My dear children are fearful that I shall give up the world entirely, and be too abstracted. True it is that having lost my better half, I have but little relish for the enjoyments of this world; my thoughts ascend to that blessed place, whither, I trust, my dear husband is gone before me; but I shall never be entirely weaned from this life, I think, while I have faculties for hearing and seeing my dear children; however, I will keep a guard over myself: alas! I know I am very unfit for the society of *angels*, with all the human frailties and weaknesses of which I am conscious; while I am in the flesh, I must not aspire to the enjoyments of superior beings.

Several pleasing circumstances happened to me in the course of the last week. I received assurances from an afflicted widow-lady, that I had

afforded her great consolation; she gave me a handsome donation for the relief of a poor young woman, who is left a widow, and destitute, with a young family of helpless children. I have had letters concerning my books of instruction for the poor, which give me pleasing hopes of the ultimate success of the plan.

Most merciful God, eternal and heavenly Father, I humble myself before thee under the consciousness of my own unworthiness; and I adore thy mercy and goodness, from whence I derive the inward peace and tranquillity which I at this time enjoy, in the comfortable hope that thou hast blotted out my sins, and granted me pardon for my dear Redeemer's sake. O Lord, I plead no merits, but those of my Saviour, but they are all-sufficient, and I have faith in them and thy divine promises, through Jesus Christ thy blessed and divine Son.

O Lord, I beseech thee to enable me to continue my labours for the instruction and good of my fellow-creatures, and to give thy blessing upon them. I pray thee, to continue to bless my dear children, and keep them by thy grace in the way of everlasting life. O Lord, protect and preserve our king and nation from the wicked plots of foreign and domestic enemies. May the sword of war be soon sheathed, and peace restored to all nations. May the number of labourers in the vineyard of Christ be encreased, and may their harvest be plentiful! O Lord, I

beseech thee to protect and bless me! Give me the comfort of thy help, most merciful Father, and take not thy Holy Spirit from me! pardon my wanderings and imperfections! O pardon the coldness of my heart during this address to thy divine Majesty! O pardon, pardon me, most merciful God, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen! Amen!

Dear and adorable Saviour! what should I be without thee; alas! a lost miserable creature.—Lord, I flee to thee: O strengthen, comfort, sustain, thy poor servant! grant me an interest in thy all-powerful intercession!

My soul, a prisoner in an earthly body, tries to look through its prison walls into the world of spirits, of which it supposes my dear departed husband an inhabitant.

O vain, vain attempt! I can gain no certainty. But it will not always be so; No, the same world will, I trust, hereafter contain us both, and the Providence of God, once more bring us into each other's presence. I delight to indulge these hopes; how can I bear to think of an eternal separation from my long-loved friend: no, I owe him a debt of gratitude, which I hope yet to discharge; yet what can I now do to increase his happiness? nothing I know! but he has left representatives behind, dear children, the pledges of that conjugal affection which was one of the strong features in his amiable, his virtuous character; and to them I will pay it; at least I will make the best return I can; I shall never cease to

esteem my dear husband while I remain in this state of existence, and I persuade myself I shall have no cause to give up the affection which my heart cherishes when I leave mortality behind.

Feb. 22. I have in the course of the last week been enabled to pursue my long neglected work with very great comfort and satisfaction; I find the task easy and delightful, and I am animated with the hope that my exertions may in the end prove beneficial to the poor in various ways.

O most merciful Father, I beseech thee to bless me with health and strength, to enable me to continue my labours for the instruction of the poor. I also most humbly beseech thee to restore health to my dear child, who is now in a weak state. O may it be thy pleasure to spare her for the sake of her dear infants, that she may bring them up in thy faith and fear. I also presume to implore thy fatherly protection for those dear babes—my child's children. O Lord, bestow upon them thy early grace. O be pleased to dispose their minds to receive the good seed; and the minds of their parents to sow and cultivate it.

March 1. O most gracious Father, I thank thee with unfeigned gratitude for the numberless comforts of the week past, for giving me strength to pursue my work, and for that sense of thy favour which thou hast granted me; particularly I thank thee, O gracious God, for the pleasure I have this day found in the house of prayer. O that such an awful sense of thy presence may ever

accompany my worship, whether in public or private. Lord, I am not now able to pray with full recollection of mind, or ardour of devotion. The employments of the day have fatigued my spirits. Thou knowest my weaknesses, thou knowest my wants and necessities. Vouchsafe to pity and help me. To thy fatherly care and protection I presume to commend all my dear children and grandchildren. I pray also for my friends and for my enemies. And O, most gracious Father, I presume to join in supplications with many of thy faithful servants in humble petitions in behalf of the nation. O Lord, hear our prayer, and let our cry come unto thee. Vouchsafe to deliver us from the fear of outrageous, cruel, and impious foes, who seek our utter destruction. O Lord, have mercy upon us! O Lord, hear us who now cry unto thee! Send us help from thy holy place, and evermore mightily deliver us! O preserve us from open and secret enemies; protect our good king and his family; preserve our constitution both in church and state. Go forth, O God of Hosts, with our fleets and armies, and enable them to obtain victories that may bring peace to this and many lands. O may these imperfect petitions find acceptance for Jesus Christ's sake!

March 8. O it is a joyful and a pleasant thing to be thankful! I thank thee, O gracious and merciful Father, great Lord of the universe. I thank thee with my whole heart for thy goodness and loving kindness to me, a miserable sinner. I

know that I am unworthy of the least of all thy mercies. How good, how gracious, how merciful art thou! How comfortable is it to my soul that I am encouraged by thy divine promises to hope that my sins are forgiven, and that I may, as thine adopted child in Christ Jesus, address thee, most mighty God, as my heavenly Father! What delightful hopes are awakened by that endearing title! My God, my Father, will not forsake me. My heavenly Parent will continue to provide for me and mine. He will deliver me out of all my troubles. He will bring my feet out of the net. My heavenly Parent will comfort and cherish me with his grace and benediction. My heavenly Parent will make provision for my eternal happiness. He will in his good time call me home. He will admit me into his glorious presence. I shall behold his face; I shall dwell with him for ever. O gracious Father, that I was but able to do thy will perfectly; to keep thy commandments wholly; but I am at present in the infancy of my existence. O Lord, I humble myself as a little child. I depend upon thy bounty and goodness. I can as yet do nothing well; but when thou shalt see fit to call me to a higher state of existence, I hope to serve thee better. O my God, how truly blessed are these moments, in which, by fervent prayer, I hold communion with thee, even in this imperfect manner! What then must be the fruition of godliness in the world to come! O world of my hope, to which my soul looks up! World in

which are hidden those treasures for which I ardently long. Of what nature are thy joys? Is not that which I now feel a faint foretaste of them? O yes! could I always feel as I now do, this world would be a heaven to me. Thanks, thanks, a thousand times repeated, could not express my gratitude. O gracious Father, thou hast hearkened to the voice of my humble petitions, and praised be thy holy name!

March 15. — — — — — — —

O most merciful God, supreme Governor of the universe, Lord God of Hosts, how furiously do our enemies rage against us! What dreadful purposes have they formed! What proud threatenings do they send forth to terrify and alarm us! Yet what are all these when opposed to thy Almighty arm? If thou seest fit, thou canst destroy them in an instant. But at present, O Lord, they are a rod in thine hands, to scourge nations not a few, and an instrument of punishment at the same time to themselves. O that the time of our chastisement was completed! that the sword of war were once more sheathed! But thou, O Lord, knowest the times and the seasons, and who shall dare to say unto thee, "Why are these things so?" When wilt thou withdraw thy hand? O Lord, great are the preparations making for our defence, great as yet are our resources; deliberate are our counsels, and I trust they are agreeable to thy Holy will. But what are all these without thy peculiar blessing? What avail all our fleets and

armies, unless thou goest forth with them? And is not our land defiled with many sins? Do not these sins cry out for vengeance? Lord, we are a sinful people, there are but few righteous among us. If thou shouldest deal with us according to our deserts, we should be blotted out from the earth, and be no more a people. But thou art a God infinite in mercy. Spare us then, good Lord; O spare us for thy mercies sake. Turn thy face from our misdeeds, and blot out our offences. Give us an increase of grace. Bring us to repentance, and receive us to thy favour. Let thy tabernacle remain in the midst of us, O Lord. Let thy glory continue with us. O may the Redeemer be duly honoured, and may the light of the Gospel spread far and wide. May I reform what is amiss in me, and hereafter increase by the practice of every Christian virtue, and the maintenance of a true faith, the righteousness of the nation to which I belong.

March 22. I sit down to my Sunday-evening's employment for a short time; but the day has not been a Sabbath of rest to me; agitations and perturbation of the most painful kind (excepting those which proceed from a guilty conscience) have invaded my peace, have robbed me of my tranquillity, have kept me from the house of God, and from the schools. My dear E—— lies upon the bed of sickness in a dangerous state, and my heart is tormented with the fear of losing her; yet, I humbly trust, I have not, on this trying occasion,

given way to fretfulness and impatience; the stroke comes from the hand of my heavenly Father, and I submit to his fatherly correction; but I am rendered more incapable of bearing up under this additional stroke by preceding cares. O what a world of trial is this! Life is truly a weary pilgrimage, but there is a rest, an everlasting rest, for the righteous. Be it my endeavour to be of this number.

O most merciful and gracious Father, the troubles of my soul are increased. I am surrounded by griefs. I beseech thee, with all humility I beseech thee, to have compassion upon me. O Lord God, take pity upon me, and spare my dear child. O spare my widowed heart the sorrow of losing a dutiful child. These petitions I offer up, O Lord, with all submission to thy holy will. Thou knowest best what is fit and proper for all thy creatures, and far be it from me, a poor, weak, erring, ignorant mortal, to desire to alter the appointments of infinite wisdom and goodness. If it be thy will to take away my dear child, I doubt not, gracious God, but that thou wilt receive her to thy mercy, and comfort me and all her surviving friends for her loss. My heart at this time is filled with gratitude unutterable, from the remembrance of thy favours and mercies. Lord, thou wast pleased to deprive me of children, of a husband, but thou didst not leave me comfortless. No, most gracious God, never was I so fully sensible of thy fatherly goodness, thy tender pity, thy

loving kindness, as on these trying occasions. O Lord, I humbly trust that thou wilt restore us to each other in a better world; that world on which my hopes are firmly fixed; that world in which my treasure is—my heavenly inheritance, my eternal life, my endless felicity; that world in which I shall behold thy glorious presence, most mighty God, in righteousness; that world in which I shall see my Saviour; that world where angels shall be my companions, my fellow-worshippers. O God, my soul even now springs forward towards those blessed abodes. O most merciful Father, how inestimable are even the *hopes* of heavenly joys! What then must be the *fruition* of them? Give me, I most humbly and earnestly beseech thee, the help of thy Holy Spirit, to enable me to do my duty, in every relation of life, as becomes a disciple of the blessed Jesus, that I may finally obtain a disciple's reward. Enable me, merciful Father, to act as becomes thy adopted child in Christ Jesus. O Lord God, I love thee above all things. I desire thee in preference to all that the boundless creation contains. My sorrows are known to thee; I trust in thy infinite goodness; thou carest for me; I will cast my care upon thee, as thy promises encourage me to do. I will put my trust in thee, the God of all power and goodness.

Divine and adorable Saviour! Friend of my soul, my beloved Master! my Lord and my God! To thee, as the only Mediator and Intercesssor for

the human race, I commit these my imperfect petitions. O present them for me to the throne of grace! add thy all powerful intercession to give them efficacy! Son of David, my daughter lieth on the bed of sickness; I know that if thou wilt thou canst restore her. Have mercy upon her! have mercy upon her! O divine Lord, thou knowest the inmost recesses of my heart; thou knowest that I do most sincerely love and honour thee. I beseech thee continue to me that peace which thou hast lately granted me. O give me the grace of patience. Make me to see the vanity of all earthly things. Let me remember, while I find tribulation in the world, that thou hast overcome the world. Lord, if I did not meet with trials of this kind, I should have no opportunity of following thy blessed example, in submitting to the dispensations of my heavenly Father. I will endeavour to sanctify my afflictions. O Lord, be with me. Forsake me not, O God of my salvation;—my Redeemer in whom I trust. Amen! Amen!

March 29. How much more pleasantly has this Sabbath passed than the last! Delivered by the mercy and goodness of God from the affliction which I felt on my dear E——'s account, and favoured with a remission of care by the same Almighty goodness, I have passed the day tranquilly, and have found it a day of rest and comfort. My soul has been refreshed with the consolation of the Holy Spirit.

What danger at present threatens this nation! what astonishing pains are taken to subvert every principle of order and government, and to throw every thing into anarchy and confusion! unless the hand of God preserve it, the nation will like that of France be soon deluged with the blood of its natives. What a dreadful situation is this! yet let us not despair; there are still many faithful in the land, and for their sakes we may humbly hope these judgments will be averted, O most merciful Lord God of Hosts! I desire to offer up my humble petitions, beseeching thee to have mercy on this land; defiled it is true, with many sins, but in which thy name is still honoured, thy holy worship still preserved, the Gospel still preached in its purity; the divinity of thy Son still acknowledged, the sanctification of the Holy Spirit still sought for. O most gracious God, vouchsafe to have mercy upon us! lift up the light of thy countenance, make thy face to shine upon us! O turn away the fierceness of thy wrath! destroy us not wholly; preserve us most merciful God, from the machinations of wicked and designing men! teach our senators wisdom, bless their counsels for the good of the nation! awaken the rich and the great to a true sense of religion and their own duty; send labourers into thy vineyard to instruct the poor in righteousness, and keep them from discontent and sedition; spare thy people, O Lord, spare us! turn us good Lord, and so shall we be turned.

May 3. O most mighty, Lord God of Hosts, before I pray for myself, I will offer unto thee my earnest supplications in behalf of this nation: may my prayer find acceptance. O Lord God Almighty, we are truly a sinful people; all thy commandments are violated amongst us, thy sabbaths are greatly polluted; the Gospel is scorned by many, the Son of God is denied and insulted. But not, O God, by *all*. O spare thy people most merciful God! spare us! turn away the fierceness of thy displeasure, destroy us not in thine anger, but grant us further time for repentance; O may all resolve to amend their own lives, and encrease thereby the righteousness of the nation! go forth, O most gracious God, with our fleets and armies! preserve our good sovereign; bless the counsels of those who direct the affairs of the nation, and take not thy Holy Spirit from us, but inspire all ranks of people with true repentance, and a desire to promote by example, a general reformation. O Lord, hear our prayers, and let our cry come unto thee.

May 10. The season of recollection is again returned, but I am not capable of improving it to the utmost for my bodily and mental powers, are at this time weak and languid. The last week, was at the beginning of it, a trying one: my dear E——, had another relapse, and though not attended with dangerous symptoms, it alarmed and agitated me. She is once more, I hope, recovering, and my anxious heart is at ease respecting her. — —

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And now, O most merciful Father, having to the best of my power searched my heart, and called to mind my transgressions, I humble myself before thee, under a deep sense of my unworthiness. I have offended against thy holy laws; but I have this day received the cup of Salvation, and I trust, thou hast graciously pardoned me, for Jesus Christ's sake, my adorable Redeemer: O most gracious Father, have mercy upon me, and grant me the help of thy Holy Spirit, that I may no more offend thee: O hold up my goings in thy paths, that my footsteps slip not! set a watch, O Lord, before my lips, and keep the door of my mouth: I desire above all things to please and obey thee. I prize above all sublunary things, my heavenly inheritance; may I never forfeit it by unpardonable sins: O most gracious Father, I humbly implore thy blessing upon my dear children; be to them a guide and defence. Inspire them with good desires, and enable them to bring the same to good effect; keep both them and me from all covetous desires, and all selfish acts. May we ever conduct ourselves with integrity and uprightness, that our endeavours may through the merits of Christ be accepted and approved by thee hereafter. May thy heavenly benediction, remain with us!

Divine and adorable Saviour, my Lord, my Master, and my God. My soul hath a longing desire to renew its sweetest employments, to do

the blessed work of a chosen disciple, to feed thy lambs. O that I may be permitted to do this with a quiet mind! that I may be permitted to enjoy thy peace, divine Lord, which passeth all understanding. How dear is thy Gospel to my heart! how comfortable the truths it reveals! how delightful the hopes it holds out. Lord, I believe these truths; I cherish these hopes; I look forward with joy to the high prize of my calling; may these hopes be realized in thy eternal kingdom.

O what a weary pilgrimage is the passage through this world; but it leads to a world of eternal bliss: our greatest afflictions, which hereafter will appear light, work for us, an eternal weight of glory. But for whom do they work this? For those who by patient continuance in well doing, seek for glory and immortality. O most gracious God, with my whole heart do I desire to seek this glory, this immortality. I prize the hopes of it beyond all earthly possessions, and I should be wretched were I to think I should forfeit it.

O divine Spirit, how greatly do I at this time stand in need of thy heavenly consolations. In times of the greatest distress, they have been graciously bestowed: O that I could now experience them! divine Spirit, I yield my mind to thy heavenly guidance. Of myself, I can neither think, or do what is right; vouchsafe to guide me, to comfort me. Holy and adorable Trinity; one God, Almighty and everlasting have compassion

upon me; let me feel that inward sense of thy divine favour that will refresh my troubled spirit. How numerous are my present vexations! but thou knowest best, O Lord, what is fitting for me to bear and to do, and may thy blessed will be done in me and by me! I will strive to cast my care upon thee, my God, for surely thou carest for me. Let me not then be dismayed in the world, as the disciple of Christ, I must expect tribulation, but let me be of good cheer, the Captain of my Salvation has overcome the world: let me fight manfully under his banner!

My son's law-suit is still undecided; I am resolved to avoid immoderate anxiety respecting the event, and to rely entirely on the goodness of Providence; I have numberless blessings in possession, it is my duty to enjoy them with a cheerful, and a thankful heart; I will endeavour to do my duty, and to keep my eternal inheritance continually in view, and then I hope the trifles of the world will not disturb me. All that I am anxious for is, to act a just and upright part, and to preserve my good name, as far as it is built upon integrity and righteous dealing.

Most gracious and merciful Father, great Author of universal nature, God of all grace, mercy, truth, and goodness, whom my soul adores with the profoundest veneration, love and gratitude; vouchsafe to receive with favour, for my dear Redeemer's sake, the supplications which I now pre-

sume to make for the pardon of all my sins. O most gracious God, why do I ever commit sin, when the sense of it is so grievous? Why do I not constantly serve thee, when obedience to thy divine commandments is so pleasant in the act, and in the recollection? Alas! my nature is frail, my infirmities are many, and the tempter is ever ready to take advantage of them; yet, thanks to thy Divine Grace, through the Shepherd of my Salvation, I do not greatly fall. No, O most gracious Father, I am mercifully restrained, as I humbly trust, from the commission of deadly sins. I have still hopes of obtaining hereafter, the heavenly inheritance prepared for me, as thine adopted child, through Jesus Christ my Lord. O most gracious Father, is it possible that a God of infinite perfection can deign to regard a poor sinner like me as his child? Yes, the word of truth has spoken it, that the humble and faithful are reckoned as thy children; and thy spirit within my heart encourages me to say Abba Father! O most merciful Father, I desire thy favour above all things. I wish I could live, so as to promote upon earth thy honour and glory; I desire to contribute towards bringing others to know and serve thee; I love, I honour, I venerate thy goodness; I place my confidence in thee; I desire to do thy will, to learn of thee. O that I could in all things approve myself the child of God! worthy of this honour, I can never be, but through the merits of my divine Redeemer; for his sake accept me, most gracious

Father. Great Parent of the universe continue to regard me with favour and loving-kindness. Keep me and mine safe under thy Almighty protection! be pleased to order our concerns, both spiritual and temporal as thy wisdom sees good, and I will not fear what man can do unto us; thou knowest our thoughts long before, and wilt reward as thou hast promised those that trust in thee. Keep me and mine from covetous selfish desires, incline and enable us to act uprightly, that our hearts may not reproach us, and then we may have confidence towards thee. Vouchsafe to continue to me, that peace which I now enjoy: O Lord, continue thy heavenly benediction to me and mine!

Dear and adorable Saviour, my beloved Lord and Master, whose service is perfect freedom, whose yoke is truly easy, whose burden is truly light! how faithfully hast thou fulfilled in respect to me, thy promise to those who come unto thee with meek and lowly minds, for I have brought my children to thy heavenly feast. One, a new guest, but I trust, he as well as the rest, had on the wedding garment. Lord, I have also brought to thy table, another child, for whom I promised at her baptism, that she should be brought up a Christian. Vouchsafe to give her thy grace, and incline her heart to piety and virtue.

O divine Saviour, I thank thee with my whole heart for the comfort, the delight, which, I this day experienced in communicating with my children

and my fellow Christians. It was a communion indeed! for my heart embraced them *all*, my prayers and praises ascended with theirs, and were presented, I trust, by thee, O divine Intercessor! O Lord, continue to regard me as thy disciple, and enable me to fulfil the duties of one!

May 29. In the midst of perplexities I seek my God, but my heart is not dismayed, I feel a firm trust and confidence in divine goodness and mercy. I persuade myself, things, by divine Providence will be brought to a happy issue; but I must do my part, or I cannot expect God to help me; and what is my part? Alas, a widow unacquainted with the ways of the world, ignorant of legal matters, can do but little on occasions like these which now occur.

After more than thirty years residence in a house, in which I have known many comforts, and in a neighbouhood where I have endeavoured to make myself respected, I amlikely to be obliged to seek for a new habitation; and there is not one within so short a distance as to enable me to fulfil the wishes of my heart by attending to the schools. Should I find it necessary to change my abode, the schools will, I fear unavoidably decline. I shall also be removed to a distance, from some of my children, whose society would comfort my declining years.

I certainly do wish to remain in this house, if it can be done without manifest injury to the proprietor; but my heavenly inheritance is the great

object of my desire, and I hope, I shall not forfeit that, for the sake of any thing this earth contains: yet it is a goodly world! and I admire its beauties more than ever; but these beauties are not confined to this spot. I can go to no place where I may not find objects of contemplation and delight. What will it signify a few short years hence, where I have had my habitation in this world? so that I possess thy favour, O most gracious Father, why should I be solicitous about earthly things? Were my own happiness alone concerned, I think it would be a matter of indifference to me on what spot of earth I fixed my abode; but my employments and connections give a preference to my present habitation, I do, therefore, most humbly beseech thee, O Lord, of thy goodness, to keep me here, if it be consistent with the allotments of thy Providence.

June 7. My dear son's affair is still in a very precarious state, and I fear, he will be obliged to engage in a law suit; but I have the very great satisfaction of seeing him proceed with prudence and uprightness; and I have the strongest assurance that he will finally succeed in establishing his claims; for my own part, I trust, my mind is in a proper state respecting this matter; my first and most anxious desire is that I, and those belonging to me, should so conduct ourselves, as to have God on our side, and to escape the reproaches of our own consciences. I also most fervently wish, that those whose interest is involved

with ours, may pursue an upright course, and that we may all act only as self-defence requires, and entertain no sentiments of enmity. As far as human infirmity permits, I resolve to hold fast my integrity, and not to let it go, and to conduct myself in such a manner, that my heart shall not reproach me so long as I live. — — — — —
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Most gracious and merciful Father, Lord God Almighty, the Creator, Governor and Preserver of all things, I magnify thee with my whole heart, I acknowledge thy power, wisdom, goodness and mercy, I confess myself unworthy of the least of all thy favours; I acknowledge myself to be a miserable sinner; but I look up to thee, gracious Father, with the confidence of hope, that thou wilt pardon my manifold offences for the sake of my blessed Redeemer, in whose merits and intercession alone, I place my hopes. I trust, that thou still regardest me as thine adopted child in Christ Jesus, and that thou beholdest me with tender pity and loving-kindness. Whence, but from thy goodness can proceed, the sweet peace and serenity, I at this time feel in the midst of vexations, which would fill me with the greatest alarm, had I not confidence in thy Almighty protection. Yes, O most gracious Father! I have the utmost confidence in thy good Providence. I humbly trust, thou wilt in thine own good time deliver us out of all our troubles. I know that it is by means of tribulations, that thou dost edu-

cate thy children for Heaven! were all to go smoothly here, the eternal inheritance would be forgotten. O let this never be the case with us! let us strive to lay up treasure in Heaven. O most merciful Father, I do above all things desire heavenly treasures. Continue to me and my dear children, I most earnestly beseech thee thy heavenly grace! incline us to all good; restrain us from all evil! defend us from all wicked devices that may be formed against us! turn the hearts of our enemies, and give us thy blessing! O continue to us, that peace, which passeth all understanding, and keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of thee, and of our blessed and adorable Saviour Jesus Christ, thy Son, our Lord.

June 16. I am once more cast down and dejected; fresh difficulties present themselves to view in ——'s affairs, and I tremble lest he should be involved in law suits. — — — —

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In this state of perplexity, I fly to my God for succour, O most gracious and merciful Father, I confess myself unworthy of the least of all thy mercies, but I love thee, O my heavenly Father, with my whole heart, I grieve that I should ever provoke thy chastisements, and I desire to submit to them with a patient and resigned mind. O that I could rise above the cares of mortality! that I could keep Heaven for ever in view! but while I dwell upon earth I must take an interest in what

concerns the temporal welfare of my dear children. — — — — — — — —

O most gracious Father, my heart is disquieted within me; vouchsafe to calm its perturbations. Grant me the help of thy Holy Spirit; forsake me not, O God of my Salvation! hear the widow's prayer; protect my fatherless children. Vouchsafe to turn the hearts of our opponents, and guide the minds of those of whom we take counsel; thy goodness is a sure refuge in time of need. Inspire me, I beseech thee, with the sentiments I ought to feel under my present circumstances, and I will strive to cherish them to my comfort and direction. -- — — — — — — —

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My prayers, which I offered up last Tuesday evening, have been most graciously granted. My mind was tranquillized very soon after; I have enjoyed much inward peace; I have been able to pursue my work with a quiet mind; nay, with joy and satisfaction. The only draw-back to it has been the weakness of my eyes; that is really alarming, but I hope it will please God to spare them to me. My son's affairs are still in a state of uncertainty, but I hope a little time will disentangle them; some spiritual benefits, I am persuaded will arise from the vexation he meets with; and I humbly trust, that divine Providence will protect and guide him. For my part I still continue most anxiously solicitous to act a just and

upright part, and to have all who belong to me do the same. — — — — — — — —

June 25. Yesterday letters arrived, which occasioned me great agitation. We have now a declared opponent, and we must act with the utmost caution and circumspection to guard ourselves against the injuries he meditates, and to establish our just rights. I resolve, for my own part, to act uprightly in such a manner, as to have no reproaches of conscience, but to keep this resolution, I stand in need of the help of God's Holy Spirit, and the same divine help is necessary for the whole injured party.

O most merciful Father, it has pleased thee to place my dear son in a most trying situation; I humbly and earnestly beseech thee to protect and guide him; restrain him from every measure which is the least contrary to thy holy will and commandments; let nothing lead him beyond the bounds of the strictest integrity: suppress in the minds of him and all concerned with him, all covetous desires; incline us to do justice to every one, and enable us to deserve a good name!

O most merciful Father, these are the sincere and hearty desires of thy servant; vouchsafe to fulfil them. Hear the widow's cry! protect her fatherless children! above all, O Lord, preserve them and me, from the temptation of our great enemy the Devil! let not his artifices prevail, but let us rather bear a thousand injuries, than do the thing that is unrighteous. O Lord, to thee I

commit my cause, humbly trusting in thy good promises.

O most gracious Father! I am willing to hope that the peace of mind I enjoy in the midst of these perplexities is an earnest of thy favour. I am inclined to cherish the hope that the sentiments, I feel, whenever a fresh attack is made by our adversary, proceed from thy fatherly goodness! how comforting, how cheering, are they to my soul! but I am fearful of being presumptuous. Yet, O most gracious Father! my hopes are, as I trust, accompanied by humility. I know my own unworthiness, and I ascribe all to thy infinite goodness through Christ Jesus, my Saviour. Yes, divine Redeemer, to thy merits, to thy intercession, I feel myself indebted for the blessings and the comforts, which are so abundantly showered upon me, by the greatest of Beings, to whom, unless invited by his grace and mercy, I should not dare even to look up!

We are involved in a very disagreeable affair; but for my part, I am at this time perfectly easy, trusting in the protection of divine Providence. Hitherto, I think, I have not had any wishes respecting this business, but what are perfectly consistent with the commandments of God. I covet no one's property; I wish not to deprive any one of his just rights; I would not do a real injury to my worst enemy. I therefore, can with humble confidence commit the cause to God, so far as it concerns myself, and I hope, all who are en-

gaged on our side, entertain the same sentiments; why then should we fear? Spiritual blessings we may be sure of receiving while we do our duty; and there is a recompence for the righteous in a better world. How little, how insignificant do the greatest earthly treasures and possessions appear, when placed in comparison with an eternal inheritance. For my part I am resolved to seek those things that are above. To seek in the first place, the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; to build my house upon the rock of ages; then let the winds blow, and the storm arise, I must be safe under the protection of the Almighty! at present I enjoy the best of all blessings, the peace of God.

O most great and merciful Father! how abundant are thy mercies to me, thy unworthy servant! I thank thee with an unfeigned heart for all thy goodness and loving-kindness, for the comfortable hope, which I at this time feel, that thou wilt forgive my transgressions for my dear Redeemer's sake.

O most gracious Father, I humbly beseech thee to continue to me during the remainder of my pilgrimage on earth, thy Almighty protection. Extend it also to all my dear children. O Lord, vouchsafe to watch over them, and keep them back from evil; lead them by thy Spirit into all good. Let nothing tempt them to forget their heavenly inheritance; O let them not over value the trifles of this life. Lord, I am desirous. that all the tem-

poral blessings we enjoy should come to us by such means, that we may be led to see that they are thy gifts. I am content to gather up the manna from day to day, omer by omer: I trust, if there is nothing over, there will be no lack. O Lord, I desire to please thee in all things; to bring up my family to please thee; to teach the young and ignorant to know thee; to honour their Saviour, and obey his Gospel. O that I could do these things effectually; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak; Lord, I presume to implore thee to give a happy deliverance to the wife of my dear son; if it be thy blessed will, make her and her husband the happy parents of a hopeful child, and give me cause to rejoice in my childrens' children.

Divine Saviour, adorable Jesus, my Master, my Lord, and my God, continue to thy weak, but faithful servant, thy love and favour. O divine Spirit, vouchsafe to dwell in an humble heart, though it is unworthy of so heavenly a guest: O that I could cast out of it, all that is offensive to a Holy God.

July 19. Once more do I find myself in my beloved retirement, and at leisure to look back upon my past conduct, and form new resolutions for the future. I sit down to the task with a heart glowing with the love of God, and I desire to confess my sins with sincerity, and to offer my thanksgivings with gratitude. Two sabbaths have passed away lately with very little improvement. The agitation of mind occasioned by attending the

painful labour of my dear daughter-in law, disqualified me for the performance of religious duties on the first of those days; I was obliged to take the *rest*, and forego the *blessing* of the Sabbath; nor has this present day been entirely to my mind, for I have not given so much instruction as I usually do to the children in the schools. I have been to Ealing Church to hear a friend preach a Charity Sermon. However, as I went along, I meditated on the works of God, I adored his infinite wisdom displayed in the vegetable world, I saw with gratitude, the growing harvest promising plenty after the dearth, which is now experienced. O Lord, how manifold are thy works, in wisdom hast thou made them all, the earth is full of thy goodness!

In the arrangement of the letters of Mrs. Trimmer, and her correspondents, it may be thought that too little regard has been paid to the time in which they were written; but as the chief object was to shew her sentiments and opinions upon different subjects, the trifling circumstance of the date was not considered as of any importance. The following letters were written to one of her sons, who was for a short time in the sea service. When about twelve or thirteen years of age, he met with an accident, which affected his health; this accident, the loss of his Captain, who was his particular patron, and some other circumstances induced his parents to change his destination in life, and in the year 1784, he returned home. By the few letters which are inserted, it will be seen in what manner Mrs. Trimmer seized upon every occasion to convey instruction to her children, and how anxious she was, that they should perform their duty in whatever situation they might be placed. The daily occurrences of life in a private family, or the great events in the world at large, were made the means of instilling sentiments suited to the circumstances, and the watchful and overruling Providence of God, was invariably pointed out.

The son to whom these letters were addressed was near the close of life, when his excellent mo-

ther was taken from this world, and survived her but a few weeks. During the course of a long and lingering illness, with which the Almighty saw fit to visit him, he took many opportunities of testifying the inexpressible satisfaction he received from having been early taught to study the Holy Scriptures; and to the latest hour of his existence, he expressed his earnest desire that his own children might be brought up to love and reverence the word of truth, to make it their guide and their counsellor, through every period of their lives, that so it might become their solace and delight, in joy or in sorrow, their comfort and consolation when the time of their dissolution should arrive.

In the days of ease, and of health, the Sacred Volume was to him, a source of never failing pleasure; and when suffering the pains and disquietudes of lingering disease, his mind was sustained by faith and hope, and the bright prospect of that world, into which, neither sickness nor death can enter. Then did the lessons of his youth appear to him beyond all price, and dearer in his estimation than thousands of gold and silver.

Brentford, Aug. 17, 1782.

My dearest William,

As the Newspapers inform us, that the Ganges arrived at Portsmouth, on Thursday last, we expected a letter from you with great impatience, and upon the receipt of your's were highly gratified by the pleasing account that you are in health, and satisfied with your profession. I make no doubt, but you will continue to like the sea service, and we delight ourselves with the hope, that you will pursue every necessary branch of study with attention, in order to qualify yourself to make a figure in it. — — — — — — —

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Mr. David R——, is greatly obliged by your particular enquiries after him, and desires to be remembered to you. He has been a great deal better than when you left him, and has got a sedan chair in which he goes to visit his friends very comfortably, but he has been very poorly these last four days, and I fear will have a relapse.

I hope you shewed yourself sensible of Captain Fielding's great kindness, in doing you the honour of taking you on shore to dine with Lady Charlotte Finch, and that you make it your study to behave with respect to your superiors; do not let the sprightliness of your disposition lead you into a neglect of good breeding.

I find by the papers, that it is expected your

next destination will be Gibraltar, I hope to hear that the expedition is attended with success, and that if there should be an engagement you behave with courage. We assure ourselves you will be animated with the love of your country, and the noble examples which will be before your eyes.

I should be glad to receive longer letters from you, and to know how your time is filled up. You gave me great pleasure by remembering to tell me that you read the Scriptures, because I flatter myself our endeavours to teach you the necessity of doing so, have had the desired effect. I beg, my dear William, you will continue the practice, for you willfind it of the greatest advantage. Pray inform me what books you read, and whether you think you shall like ship-modelling as well as ever? Your sister E—— is very careful of your tools. You have not yet informed us whether you were sea sick, and how soon you went aloft.

I must leave room for a postscript from your father, and can therefore, only add compliments from all friends, and abundance of love from your grandfather, brothers and sisters, &c. with my fervent prayers for your preservation from all dangers, and improvement in all virtues that can render you amiable and happy!

I am,

My dear William,

Your truly affectionate Mother,

S. Trimmer.

Brentford, Sept. 5, 1782.

My dear William,

I am very anxious to hear from you again, and beg that you will write frequently while you are in port, we shall regard such attention, as a token of duty and affection.

The dreadful accident which happened to the Royal George, shocked us to a great degree. I wish to know how many lives were lost, and whether the Admiral's body has been taken up; also whether he was a married man, and had his lady on board as was reported?

I am sure such a dreadful misfortune must have struck all beholders with consternation, and though I should be very sorry to hear, that it had made you fearful of a sea-faring life, I hope it has made a proper impression on your mind, and that you will endeavour to obtain the favour of God, for then you may be certain, that your happiness will be secure, even if your life should be cut off by some unexpected calamity, which often happens on land, as well as at sea. Religion is the best source of courage in the world. To be confident (as you may be if you do your duty) that you are under the protection of an Almighty Being, will give you fortitude to encounter every danger. To this you must add, an ardent love for your king and country; your honour is pledged

to serve them with your best abilities, for when you receive pay it will be upon that condition, and therefore, should you be negligent in your profession, you would act a dishonest part. But we hope better things from you, and flatter ourselves that you will not be contented with discharging the common duties of your profession, but as we are willing to give you a good education, that you will aspire to fame and glory, by gaining a thorough knowledge of the theory as well as practice, and by emulating the examples of those noble characters, which adorn the pages of history, and those living heroes, who are the ornaments and support of the British Navy. Oh my dear child, you cannot imagine half the anxiety your parents feel for you happiness. Guard your mind from every temptation, to vice and idleness, and learn habits of industry and virtue, and you will give us the highest degree of felicity. — — — —

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We all join in love to you, and kindest compliments to Mr. B——. I remain with all possible tenderness,

My dear William,

Your affectionate Mother,

S. Trimmer.

Brentford, Sept. 23, 1783.

My dear William,

I hasten to write to you, that my letter may reach you before you sail, for I am sure it will add to the pleasure of the voyage to know that all your friends here, are now in good health. — —

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I suppose you have heard, that there has been a dreadful earthquake in Calabria, which destroyed many thousand inhabitants. I wish you, my dear William, to consider those judgments as warnings to the world to serve God, and keep his commandments. It is true they are produced by natural causes, but what is *nature* but the disposition of divine Providence? If not a sparrow falls to the ground without our heavenly Father, much less can such multitudes perish without his permission. The Scriptures teach us to consider *national judgments, as punishments for national sins;* our nation at present, is notorious for so many vices, that we may expect calamities in our turn; it is therefore highly proper, that every individual, should look well to his *own ways,* and endeavour to secure the favour of God, who will then either preserve him from danger, or remove him to a happier state. For my part, I see no way to possess ones mind in peace, whilst we read of earthquakes, hurricanes, &c. but by a regular performance of religious duties; therefore, my dear child, do not

neglect them; offer up your prayers and praises every night and morning to God Almighty, and endeavour to lead a good life. Do your duty in the station you are placed in, and the blessing of the Most High will attend and reward you.

I am very desirous to know the nature of your employment, and how it is that you fill up all your time. — — — — — — — —

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Your friend Mr. D. R——, has been very poorly lately, he desires to be remembered. We all join in wishing you a happy voyage, and safe return, and send you our kindest love.

I am,

My dear William,

Your affectionate Mother,

S. TRIMMER.

Brentford, April, 6, 1784.

My dear William,

I thought the time long till I heard from you, but made myself easy with the persuasion, that if you had been *unhappy* you would have written *yourself*, and if *ill*, that Mr. Rex would have done us the favour to let us know it.

We are sorry to hear, that your ship is not to go to sea for so long a time, but hope you will endeavour to keep yourself employed in such a way, as may be of service to you when you shall go.

I have a great deal of news to tell you, but of a very melancholy kind; therefore, to prevent your fears, I must inform you, that your grandfather, father, brothers and sisters are all well. — —

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Your friend Mr. David R——, is also departed. I am sure the regard you had for this amiable young man, will make you feel great concern for his loss, but I hope you will be comforted when I tell you that his sufferings were great for some time before his death, and that he was extremely resigned. You see my dear William, how uncertain human life is, no stage of it is secure from the dart of death. How careful, therefore, should every one be to live in a state of preparation for it? This may be done without any interruption to rational cheerfulness, nothing more is required than to regulate our lives by the rules which our blessed Saviour has laid down for us in the New Testament, and to use our endeavours to imitate his example as far as the infirmities of human nature will permit. I wish you could have been an eye-witness of the consolation which dear David derived from religion in his last agonies, because I am sure it would have made a lasting impression on your mind. He died full of hopes of everlasting happiness, and yielded his soul without even a groan, into the hands of his heavenly Father, in whose glorious presence, I trust, he is now rejoicing that he has escaped from a painful state. — — — — — — — —

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As soon as you let me know you want the books, &c. I will send them. I hope you are much better; do not forget to write particulars respecting you health. I can only add our united love and subscribe myself,

Your affectionate Mother,

S. TRIMMER.

CONTINUATION OF THE

JOURNAL FOR THE YEAR 1795.

O divine Saviour, I have a most fervent desire to be instrumental to the propagation of thy Gospel on earth, but I am sore let and hindered. Now that my health is equal to the delightful task, my eye sight fails. Son of David, have mercy upon me! thou, who hast so often given sight to the blind, preserve to me, I beseech thee, the use of my eyes! let me not be condemned to darkness! Lord, in thy service I wish to employ all my faculties, both mental and bodily. O that they may be graciously spared to me, so that while I live upon earth I may be useful to my fellow-creatures, and able to honour thee, my divine Lord and Master. O divine Saviour, I most earnestly desire to follow thy blessed example in all things possible, and to obey all the precepts of thy Gospel. Have mercy upon me, have mercy upon me, O God of my salvation.

O most adorable and divine Trinity! heavenly Father! divine Son! Holy Ghost! my soul is devoted to thee. Incomprehensible Deity, I

feel more than human language can express! O read my heart! accept my feeble attempts to soar above mortality! most gracious God, how transporting the thought that when this frail life is ended, I shall enter upon an eternal existence with improved powers and enlarged faculties, capable of comprehending more of thy wonderful perfections, and of paying thee higher adoration! what wonders are exhibited even in this world! I view the works of creation with astonishment and delight, though I can see but the surfaces of things. O Lord, so manifold are thy glorious works, that I doubt not they will furnish contemplation for eternal ages! O God! I cannot praise thee in a manner equal even to my sense of thy perfection, and what is the highest sense which a worm like me can form of an infinite and all-perfect Being? yet, O my God, vouchsafe, I beseech thee, to accept the best tribute which I can in this low state offer to thee! O that every intelligent being would each in his respective sphere offer thee praise! that thy praises might resound from every part of thy boundless creation.

Adorable and divine Saviour, Son of God, Redeemer of the world, I honour thee even as I honour the Father! I love thee with gratitude inexpressible! what should I have been without thee! blessed Lord, thou knowest that I love thee! O that I could pass my whole time while on earth in thy peculiar service, in doing the will of my Father, in following thy blessed example, in endeavouring to

propagate thy glorious Gospel! thanks, thanks a thousand and a thousand times repeated cannot express my gratitude to thee, divine Lord! for what thou hast done and suffered, and for what thou hast revealed! without thy Gospel, what should I have known of my heavenly inheritance? of the crown of glory laid up for the faithful? blessed Saviour, I will continue faithful till death; O that I may receive this inestimable prize from thy hands. O divine Lord! and may I really hope, sinner as I am, to be received by thee? yes, such is my hope, for such is thy promise to those who love thy appearing; and this, I trust, I do: how pleasing to my awakened soul will be the trumpet of the archangel! O Lord, washed in thy precious blood, I shall not be afraid to stand before thy judgment-seat! yet let me not be presumptuous; God alone knows in what state I may die; I trust I shall not apostatize, but temptations are numerous, and humanity is frail. O Lord, preserve me from falling off from thee. Knit me to thee, adorable Saviour! Divine Spirit, through whom alone sinners can be sanctified, I most humbly and earnestly beseech thee to cleanse my soul from whatever pollution it may have contracted. O divine Spirit! I open my heart to receive thee; I desire, most fervently do I desire, to be guided by thy heavenly dictates. Vouchsafe, I beseech thee, to suggest to me what I ought to do and say, and I will follow thy heavenly motions! if left to

myself I shall inevitably stray! leave me not to myself, most gracious God, for my spirit is weak!

O most gracious God, I desire to leave all worldly concerns in thy hands, and to acquiesce in the dispensations of thy all-wise Providence. I know, O God, that thou canst over-rule the passions of men, as easily as thou canst still the ocean. I pray thee to direct us by thy grace and goodness in the way of uprightness and holiness, and to keep us back from any thing that is contrary to thy will and commandments. Let us lose *any thing*, and *every thing*, rather than forfeit thy divine favour. O Lord, hear the widow's prayer, and bless her fatherless children.

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O, my beloved husband, I have had some tender painful recollections of thee of late: could I see thy son for the first time receive his new-born infant, and give the kiss of congratulation to his beloved partner on her safe delivery, without thinking of thy tenderness and love on similar occasions; forbid it gratitude, that I should ever forget the kindness with which thou wast accustomed to cheer me! the delight with which thou didst receive every additional child! O my children, may you also remember the tenderness of a father who welcomed you into existence with delight, though he knew that his burden of care must be encreased! O my beloved children, this dear affectionate husband, this tenderest of parents,

will surely be restored to you and to me! we shall not always be separated! we shall form again a happy society; not in a world in which offences must needs come; a world in which sorrows must assail us; in which sinners prevail; in which deprivations abound: but in the realms of bliss! in the society of angels! in the presence of God!

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O most merciful God, what an alarming prospect have we had of dearth and insurrection! but thou hast graciously prevented the one, by inclining the affluent to practise self-denial, in order to feed the poor, and by restraining the spirit of discontent within the bounds which it attempted to pass! most mighty God! vouchsafe to preserve for our use the fruits of the earth, which now promise an abundant harvest, and give us all, both rich and poor, grace to be thankful, and to enjoy with moderation what thy bounty bestows! continue to go forth with our fleets! and to preserve our armies. O that it may soon be thy good pleasure to restore peace to all nations! Amen! for Jesus Christ's sake.

Aug. 2. I do most earnestly and fervently wish that I could keep from all manner of sin, but my nature is very weak; I cannot always stand upright; but supported and sustained by the grace of God, I do not, I hope, greatly fall. I still preserve, as I humbly trust, piety towards God, and integrity towards my neighbour. I still value an inheritance in the heavens beyond any thing this

world can furnish. My treasure is in heaven, and there is my heart also.

My mind is full of schemes for the improvement of the lower classes of the people in the principles of Christianity. May it please God to bring them to good effect, for it is very shocking to see to what a height of profligacy and impiety many of the poor are arrived; yet I hope and trust there are still many thousands who have not bowed the knee to Baal!

What an awful event has happened lately on the coast of France! thousands of poor Frenchmen, fighting for their king and their religion, have been unhappily slaughtered by their infatuated countrymen, who now appear to be let loose to execute the wrath of God, on all the surrounding nations. Hitherto, we of this island appear to be under the peculiar care of heaven; our ships ride triumphant upon the ocean, and the schemes of sedition are frustrated. Though irreligion spreads far and wide, yet the public acts in general, according to my judgment, are agreeable to the written word of God: and while they continue so, we shall, I trust, be safe. We have a further security, I think, in having a religious king upon the throne; yet, perhaps I may be mistaken in respect to our safety, and the judgments of an offended God may soon fall upon our heads. O that we may be wise, that we may take warning from the evils which have fallen upon the proud and imperious nation with which we are now contending! O Lord

God of Hosts, prosper our undertakings, as far as they are agreeable to thy holy will and pleasure, and restrain us from all enterprizes that are contrary thereto!

O most gracious and merciful Father, I humbly beseech thee to pardon all my manifold offences for Jesus Christ's sake, and for his sake continue to me thy loving-kindness and tender compassion. O Lord, grant me the constant aid of thy Holy Spirit, that I may never more fall into sin. Leave me not to myself even for a moment. O most gracious Father, I do most sincerely love and adore thy infinite perfections: I consider it as the highest privilege I can enjoy in this world, and even in the next, to be allowed to address thee; to come to thee as a child to its parent. How amazing the condescension, for the Author of all things, the Creator of perhaps millions of worlds, to stoop to a creature like me! a poor weak mortal! O most gracious Father, I am truly sensible of thy goodness towards me; and I long and desire to testify my gratitude for this inestimable favour; but what can I do? Thou desirest not burnt-offerings, else would I give them to thee; but thou delightest not in the fat of rams, or of bulls. The sacrifice that is pleasing in thy sight is a broken and a contrite heart. O my God, I do most heartily lament that I have so often offended thee; and I do most earnestly desire to promote thy honour and glory upon earth, by making a proper use of the faculties and talents which thou

hast been pleased to bestow upon me. I love, thee, O God, my strength; I trust in thee; I admire thy works; I magnify thee with my whole heart. I wish that all thy creatures may in their respective spheres shew forth thy glory. I long to behold thy Majesty as it is displayed in heaven. O Lord, I will set thee always before me, that I may ever fear to offend thee. But perfect love casteth out fear. O my God, I feel this love; I look up with joyful expectation to the fulfilment of thy promises in Christ Jesus. O divine Saviour, my Lord, my Master, my God! the only Son of the eternal Father! vouchsafe to accept the homage of a heart devoted to thee. Vouchsafe to hold up my goings in thy paths, that my footsteps slip not. Set a watch, O Lord, before my lips, and keep the door of my mouth. Preserve me from sin and from folly.

Aug. 9. I sit down to my accustomed meditations with a weary spirit: the last week was a week of great exertion; I fatigued myself beyond my strength, and to-day I have fatigued myself again in the schools; yet how can I remit these labours where so many stand in need of instruction; I must not suffer this little flock to be scattered, now they are gathered together; nor will I lose one of them if I can help it. But it is very disheartening to see so many children running about in idleness and wickedness in spite of the pains which are taken to reform and reclaim them: However, I must not make myself unhappy about that which I cannot

help; but I am ready to say with the Psalmist, "my eyes gush out with water because men keep not thy law." O how dreadful it is to see so many men and women walking in the way of destruction, and so many young persons of both sexes led astray! but my present business is to consider my own ways and not to censure others. How comfortable is the hope which may be entertained, not only by me, but by every one who has been taken into the covenant of baptism, of being a child of God; and if a child then an heir; an heir of God, the joint heir of Christ! and where is my heritage? even in the kingdom of my Father, in the regions of eternal bliss! what an inestimable privilege is this! may I ever value it as I ought to do! may I never forfeit it by disobedience or any wickedness! — — — — — —

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O most merciful Father, all the cares that have lately assailed me were known to thee; my mind is at this time relieved from them; but I fear they will ever return with the occasions. I most humbly beseech thee of thy goodness to fortify me against them; and to maintain the cause of me and my family. O Lord, I beseech thee to give me charitable thoughts of our opponents, and let me not entertain unreasonable prejudice against any of them. Let the only care of me and my family be to act uprightly, trusting in thy goodness and mercy, which we have so largely experienced. O most gracious and eternal Father, I humbly

beseech thee to keep me and all my dear children under the protection of thy good Providence and the guidance of thy grace. O Lord, I pray to thee also for my childrens' children, who are now multiplying around me. I pray to thee also for the nation to which I belong, and for the king.

O Lord, be pleased to grant us all we stand in need of, both for our souls and bodies, and bring us finally to thy heavenly kingdom. Amen! Amen! for Jesus Christ's sake!

Aug. 16. A very short time is left me this evening for meditation, but my heart glows with devout affections. O most gracious Father, I love, I adore, I venerate thy holy name, I honour thee with my whole heart. I know, O Lord, that in many things I have offended. I grieve that I have done so, and I most earnestly beseech thee to pardon my manifold offences for Jesus Christ's sake, my Saviour and Redeemer. I have still many things which oppress my mind with care. O Lord, I beseech thee, if it be thy good pleasure, to relieve me from these cares!

How greatly do vice and profligacy prevail! how shocking is it to see the sabbath of the great Lord and Governor of the universe profaned as I have seen it this day. It grieves me to the heart that so many of my fellow-creatures are so lost to a sense of their own truest felicity. O most gracious Father, I beseech thee to have compassion upon these poor ignorant sinners, and to bring them to repentance. O most merciful Lord

and Saviour, I beseech thee to have compassion upon our little flock; awaken them by thy grace to a sense of their duty, and give efficacy to the instructions which they receive. Bless, O Lord, all the children of the poor; how dear are they to me for my Redeemer's sake! most adorable Saviour, thou knowest that I love thee. O that I could constantly act as becomes thy disciple. O hold up my goings in thy paths, that my footsteps slip not!

How dear to me is my own home, even now that the head of the household is taken away! but it pleased God that my dear husband should be removed from this world; what a stroke was that! how perfectly do I remember the circumstances of that fatal night; but never are they recalled to my memory unaccompanied by the most fervent gratitude to God; how kind, how good was my heavenly Father at that season of distress! and praised be his holy name for the consolations he at that time so graciously afforded to me and my dear children, and for his abundant kindness to us ever since; never did I know perfectly what it was to be a child of God, till the greatest affliction was sent to me. I will not now think of the world. I will think of heaven. O regions of eternal bliss, when shall I enter your blessed abodes? when will your gates of pearl unfold to receive me? when shall I see the throne of God? when shall I behold my Saviour? when shall I hear the songs of angels? when shall I meet again my dear lost re-

lations: my husband, my tenderest of earthly friends, my children, my father, my mother, my brother, my honoured father-in-law. O rapture, but to hope for these joys; and what greater may be in store for me! if ever we do meet again, I hope we shall never be separated; I hope our heavenly employments will be the same. But what can I know of these employments; I know what I have to do upon earth, and I will strive to do it according to the will of my heavenly Father. I have a glorious reward in view; I look beyond the dark regions of the grave; I will be faithful till death, God's grace assisting me.

Sept. 13. I promised myself two hours of recollection and meditation, but have been unexpectedly broken in upon by friends, and one hour is already flown away. I must make the most of what remains.

Since last I sat down in this place to meditate and search my heart. I have taken a long journey, and in many respects a very pleasant one it has been to me; I have seen friends from whom I had long been separated; I have met with great attentions, and my eyes have been feasted with the sight of the most glorious harvest that the country has known for a series of years. I felt unspeakable satisfaction in viewing the abundance with which the Almighty Governor has blessed the land.

I have this week received an addition to my fa-

mily of another grandson: O may it be the child of God from its birth.

I am once more returned in safety and health to my own house, and may I be thankful to the great Preserver, whose Providence has protected me and the dear child who accompanied me from all perils and dangers. O Lord, vouchsafe to accept my thanksgivings for all thy late mercies bestowed upon me and my dear daughter.

Sept. 27. Last Sunday I was absent from home, my dear little grandson was received into the congregation of Christ's church ——, and I attended the ceremony, which was performed with all due solemnity. I made in his name the baptismal vow; the sacrament was rightly and duly administered, and I humbly trust the divine benediction accompanied it. I hope and believe that he was *regenerated* and *adopted* as the child of God, and that he became a member of Christ, and entitled through the all-sufficient merits of his Redeemer to an inheritance in the kingdom of heaven. O may he grow up in the nurture and fear of the Lord; may he attain to the measure of the fulness of the stature of Christ!

In a very short time I shall attend the baptism of another grandson. O how comfortable a thing it is to see successive generations added to the number of Christ's church on earth. How delightful the hope of seeing a numerous progeny among the blest inhabitants of heaven!

I have been to the schools to-day, and hope I have given some useful instruction. I will labour with unremitting care to make the children know their Redeemer. May his grace accompany my endeavours!

O most great and wonderful Lord God! the Fountain of all perfection, the Author of all being, the Preserver of all thy boundless creation, I bow down my soul before thee with reverence, adoration, and devotion, acknowledging my own unworthiness to address thy divine Majesty, and thy goodness in inviting sinners to come unto thee. O Lord most mighty, how often have I offended against thy holy laws, yet hast thou not cast me off! no, most gracious God! the repentant sinner thou art always ready to receive, and such I trust I am. O my God, I grieve that I should ever do any thing contrary to the least of thy commandments, and I will strive, thy grace assisting me, to keep them better for the time to come. Vouchsafe then, O gracious and merciful Lord, to pardon all my sins for Jesus Christ's sake, in whose merits alone I trust.

Oct. 4. The morning was wet, and I stayed from church and from the schools; but I have been reading over some of my former meditations and prayers which awakened sentiments of devotion and gratitude in my heart. It is certainly true that my life is in many respects a weary pilgrimage. Cares are sown thick in my path, but thanks to Almighty goodness, numbers of them

have proved causeless; others have been graciously relieved, and some have been turned into so many blessings. Of real misfortunes I have not had many since the death of my dear husband, and how did the Almighty graciously enable me to bear the heaviest of trials: why, then, should I ever give way to fears and apprehensions, as I am still too apt to do, upon every shadow of disappointment. — — — — — — — —

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O most gracious Father, I have as a widowed mother many trials to encounter: my dear children are placed in various situations, and I have in consequence many anxieties; but thanks to thy grace and providence, I humbly trust these dear children are in the enjoyment of thy favour and protection. O Lord, I pray thee to guard and defend them. Vouchsafe to incline the minds both of them and of me to do our duty. Lord, if I know my own heart, this is my first wish. I am greatly ambitious of sharing with my children, and with my late dear husband, if such be thy blessed will, an heavenly inheritance; what are all the treasures of this life in comparison with an heavenly inheritance? O Lord, for myself I can say with Jacob, vouchsafe only to give me food to eat, and raiment to put on, during my pilgrimage upon earth, and I will be content, so that I may be permitted to go to my Father's house in peace. O heavenly Father! in that house are many mansions; may I find one prepared for me!

and may all who are near and dear to me find each of them one also! O Almighty Father, I will this night, thy grace assisting me, lie down in peace and take my rest, trusting in thy goodness. Forsake me not, O God of my salvation! let our hearts and affections be fixed on thee, our God, and upon heavenly things. I praise and bless thy holy name with gratitude and thanks for all thy bounties and mercies to me and mine. O blessed Trinity, I worship, I adore thee, the incomprehensible, the ineffable Deity. Glory and honour, and praise, and thanksgiving, be unto the Lamb that was slain, the adorable Redeemer for ever and ever. Amen!

O most gracious and merciful Father, Lord of heaven and earth, great Governor of the universe, I, thy unworthy servant, with all humility confess myself a sinner, and grieve that I have so often offended against thy holy laws in thought, word, and deed; and I do most earnestly implore thy forgiveness for the sake of the Redeemer of mankind, our Lord Jesus Christ, on whose merits alone I depend for salvation. O most merciful Father, I render thee unfeigned thanks for all thy mercies and loving-kindness towards me and all my dear children; for those supplies which thou hast graciously afforded both for our bodily and spiritual necessities. I humbly beseech thee, to continue to me and mine thy divine protection; be to us a sure rock of defence against the face of our enemies. O Lord, I ear-

nestly entreat thee to turn the hearts of our opponents, and to dispose us all to do what is right and honest in thy sight. Let us not be tempted by the desire of riches to do any thing contrary to thy will and commandments; enable every one of us by thy grace to keep a good conscience; let us not depart from our duty to thee or our neighbour: then through the merits of our beloved Redeemer shall we find acceptance with thee, O great and holy God! how truly delightful is the expectation of heavenly joys, the hope of heavenly treasures! when I am encouraged by the Scriptures to consider myself as a fellow-citizen with the saints in light, of the heavenly Jerusalem, how little and insignificant do all things in this world appear; and yet it is a goodly world; sin only defiles it, and makes it an uncomfortable abode, in which the wicked trouble the good, and even the best contribute to its defilement. How pleasant must it be to live for eternal ages without sin! how comfortable to be delivered from the sorrows, the difficulties, the uneasinesses, the pains of mortality! how extatic to mix with the angelic host, and bow down before thy glorious presence! when shall I come to appear before thee, my God? — — — — — — — —

— — — — — — — — — —

O Lord, it is my earnest and fervent desire to be a good mother; a good sister-in-law; a good mistress; a good friend; a true benefactress to the poor; to be in all points a truly Christian wo-

man. O what a glorious title is that of a Christian! what an unspeakable prize, what an inestimable treasure is held out to the hope and expectation of the true Christian! may this prize, this treasure be mine! O adorable Saviour, thou hast taught thy disciples to lift up their thoughts above the cares and vanities of this transitory life, and to fix their hearts upon heavenly riches. Lord, I do this most sincerely. I lift up my soul to heaven; I pant after its joys; I aspire after its treasures. Let not my hope and expectation be cut off by my own folly. Save, save me, blessed Lord, give me an interest in thy precious blood. Lord Jesus, divine Saviour, Son of God, thou knowest that I love thee; thou knowest all hearts; thou knowest that I believe in thee; not a circumstance which is related of thee in the Holy Scriptures do I doubt or deny, but most firmly believe. O that my faith may for thy sake be reckoned for righteousness! O that I may be justified through thy merits in the sight of my heavenly Father, when I rise from the dead! Adorable Saviour, I am among those who long for thy second coming. Sinner as I am, I think I shall not be afraid to behold thy glorious face! no, divine Lord, thou wilt not despise thine handmaid; thou wilt, I humbly trust, acknowledge me for a true disciple before men and angels; thou wilt, I trust, wipe away all tears from my eyes, and admit me into those blessed regions where nothing is to be found but joy and peace.

I trust thou wilt restore to me those dear friends who are gone before me! O adorable Saviour, what can I render unto thee, for all the benefits I have received, and am encouraged to hope for through thy mediation? Lord, I can offer thee nothing but my poor thanks; but I can do good to those whom thou hast appointed thy substitutes upon earth, the poor and the afflicted; and thy grace assisting I will do good to them.

Dec. 14. This morning I read over the different heads of self-examination in the New Manual of Devotion previous to my receiving the sacrament, and my conscience returned a favourable answer to most of them. I hope my own heart does not deceive me; I am far from thinking myself free from sin; on the contrary, I know that my offences and transgressions have been numberless; and I also know, that in those matters in which my conscience acquits me, I am indebted entirely to the grace of God; I also know, that I could have no hopes of salvation, if my Saviour had not made atonement for me: but I feel such inward peace, and such an impulse to *rejoice in the Lord* that I am unwilling to part with this blessed serenity. It is the appropriate enjoyment of the Sabbath.

I this day went to the table of the Lord; and greatly refreshed has my soul been with that divine feast; I communicated with my fellow Christians and was comforted.

Most gracious and merciful Father, Lord God

Almighty, how wonderful is thy goodness to the sons and daughters of men! What am I, that thou shouldst thus bless me with thy favour and loving kindness? Alas! in myself I am a poor weak erring mortal, I have often offended against thy commandments. But, O gracious Father, I do most firmly believe in my Saviour, thy only begotten Son, and I trust thou wilt reckon my faith as righteousness. O merciful God, I most humbly and earnestly beseech thee to pardon all my offences for Jesus Christ's sake, and enable me, by thy grace, to avoid the repetition of them.

O most mighty God, Lord of the Universe, who sittest up kings, and casteth them down to the ground, in whose sight nations are but as drops in a bucket, how wonderful art thou, O Lord God of Hosts! who can abide thy wrath? O most mighty and merciful God, I presume to implore thy pity and compassion for this sinful land. Spare us, good Lord, spare us for thy mercy's sake, and let not our enemies triumph over us. Vouchsafe to deliver us out of the hands both of foreign and domestic foes, who are confederated to destroy our church and state. O deliver us from the dreadful evil of famine, and give thy blessing upon the earth which now contains the seeds of the next harvest. O Lord, receive these my humble petitions for Jesus Christ's sake.

Dec. 20. No obstacle at this time prevents my retiring to my closet; I have shut the door,

and I wish to pray to the Father who seeth in secret. Before I presume to pray, I will endeavour to collect my thoughts. Let me first call my sins to remembrance. Alas! this is a business in which I am very deficient. I am afraid, on the one hand, of deceiving myself into an opinion, that this difficulty of recollection, this peace of conscience, which I feel at this time, is the work of divine grace; or, on the other, of slighting the grace of God, and casting away the blessing which his goodness bestows upon me. Most gracious and merciful Father, my heart is open to thy all-seeing eye; thou knowest the desire I have to call my sins to remembrance, that I may confess them unto thee. O if there be any unforgiven, vouchsafe to set them before me. I know that I am a sinner, and that every day of my life I commit offences against thy holy laws; but thy grace has kept me back from those great offences, which leave a lasting sting behind them; and encouraged by thy gracious promises to the humble and penitent, I approach unto thee with a quiet mind, full of hope and confidence that my sins are freely forgiven for my dear Redeemer's sake. — —

Most gracious Father, if I thought I was under thy displeasure, I should be ready to humble myself before thee in sackcloth and ashes, to implore thy pardon, and deprecate thy wrath. But, O Lord, thou dost not present thyself to my mind, armed with indignation, dreadful in judgment, coming to take vengeance upon me. No, most

gracious God, I feel thy fatherly goodness as a child encouraged by the tenderest of parents. What a happiness it is thus to be sensible of thy Divine favour! While I rejoice in thy goodness, let me, however, never forget my weakness and infirmities. Let me never forget that I owe all the comfort I enjoy to thy indulgence, not to my own merit. I know and feel that I am at best but an unprofitable servant. Most gracious Father, with a thankful heart I bless and praise thy holy name for all the mercies of the week past. O why should I ever be afraid that any trouble will be too much for me! every one that approaches me has its commission: when it has done its appointed work, it will be called away.

O most gracious Father, I render thee humble thanks for the hope I now have, that the children of the poor, who are under my care, will return to their duty. I most humbly beseech thee to incline my heart still to their improvement, notwithstanding all the discouragements I meet with, and to strengthen me to do whatever may be needful.

O merciful God, I presume to pray to thee in behalf of the nation to which I belong. Be pleased in thy great goodness to avert the impending judgments. O deliver us, great God of Hosts, from the evils of war, and save us from the miseries of famine. From the dreadful effects of sedition, conspiracy, and rebellion, good Lord deliver us! Most gracious and merciful Father, Lord God Almighty, I presume to offer up to thy divine

Majesty, the humble tribute of praise and thanksgiving for all thy goodness and mercies bestowed upon me, from the first moment of my existence to the present time. O Lord, by thy goodness and power I was brought out of nothing, or I should never have been; by thy goodness and power I have been sustained, or I should long ere now have ceased to be. O most gracious Father, I am truly sensible of thine abundant mercy and goodness towards me, and I thank thee with my whole heart. I am also sensible that I am undeserving of the least of all thy mercies; that I am a sinner, and have no title to everlasting life but through the merits of my blessed Redeemer. My soul praises thee, O gracious Father, for thine infinite love and compassion in sending thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to bring salvation to lost mankind, and I most humbly beseech thee to pardon whatsoever I have done amiss, for my dear Redeemer's sake. I beseech thee of thy great goodness to continue to me that peace which passeth all understanding; and to afford me the aid of thy Holy Spirit, to enable me to serve thee better for the time to come. Lord, I pray thee to prosper my endeavours for the good of my poor neighbours. I thank thee for the hopes which thou hast been pleased to afford me, that the children under my care will receive benefit from my instructions; and I pray thee to give to them and me that assistance which is wanted for their instruction, that I may be ready and able to teach, and they as willing to hear,

Give thy heavenly grace to every one of my family, that we may perform our duty in our respective relations, and please thee, our God and Father. O Lord, I beseech thee to have compassion upon the whole nation to which I belong; save the king, and preserve the people from the delusions of seditious and evil-minded men, and give us victory over our enemies, both open and secret. O Lord, raise up, I pray thee, thy great power, and come among us, and with great might succour us. O save thy Church, preserve to us our holy religion, and let not Satan prevail against us. Vouchsafe to incline the hearts of all who have ability to relieve the distresses of the indigent, and enable them to do it with judgment and efficacy, so as to benefit the souls and bodies of the objects of their bounty and compassion. O Father of mercies, receive these my imperfect petitions for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

In the letters from Mrs. Denward to Mrs. Trimmer, frequent mention is made of her nephew, Mr. G——, upon account of whose health she travelled into Wales. About the year 1795, he departed this life, leaving behind him one only son, heir to a very considerable property. This child was of a most angelic turn of mind, and great sensibility, and equally the comfort of his mother, and of his venerable aunt, Mrs. Denward. The latter, though much attached to her old habitation in Kent, left it, in order to pass a few months with Mrs. G—— near Liverpool. Friendship and kindness, she thought, demanded this of her; but the desire of being near the little boy, who was at school in that neighbourhood, had likewise its weight in the determination. About a week after her arrival, she purchased a poney for the child, from an idea that his health, which was delicate, would be benefited by the exercise of riding. The day after the purchase was made, the horse was sent to the school, which was about a mile from the place where his friends resided, that he might pay them a little visit. Scarcely had he mounted his horse, and set off, before the animal took fright, from some cause or other, ran away with him, threw him off, and dragged him by the stirrup a mangled corpse.

His mother and Mrs. Denward, who were anxi-

ously expecting his arrival, anticipating in idea the delight they should have in witnessing his pleasure, had the inexpressible grief of hearing of the dreadful accident that had happened; and, instead of receiving their little darling, were told that he was stretched out lifeless on the table of an inn, till the coroner, who was forty miles distant, should arrive.

The widowed parent, now deprived of the only tie which bound her to life, was almost inconsolable. Mrs. Denward, though upon every occasion patient and resigned to the will of the Almighty, was scarcely less shocked, and frequently and pathetically exclaimed—" O fatal, fatal present! cruel friendship! why did I leave my home, and come here to occasion the death of our much loved infant!" In this distress she desired her attendants to write to Mrs. Trimmer, relate their anguish, and beg that she would send them some words of consolation. It was in compliance with this request, that the following letter was written.

TO MRS. DENWARD.

Brentford, October 5, 1795.

My dear Madam,

Both myself and family do most sincerely sympathize with you and the distressed parent, in

your affliction, which is doubtless very great, and so sudden a shock cannot but be severely felt. Indeed it is necessary at first to give way to the feelings of nature; they cannot be resisted in the beginning without such effects as may be hurtful to the constitution; nor does God require of us to be *insensible* to the evils we meet with. But I need not say to *you*, I am sure, that it is not for Christians "*to sorrow like those without hope.*" After we have wept for the dead, we must seek comfort for ourselves; and those that seek will surely find. I have reason to say so, for I have experienced Divine consolation under some of the greatest trials humanity is exposed to—the loss of a most dear husband by a stroke of Providence, as instantaneous as that which put an end to the mortal existence of your beloved child; which misfortune fell upon me before I had overcome the death of a most promising and amiable son. But I resigned my soul to the Divine will, not doubting but that all things are ordered for the best by unerring wisdom. I prayed earnestly and frequently for Divine aid, and it was graciously and abundantly granted me. I do not doubt, my dear Madam, but that you and your afflicted friend fly to the same source, and I am persuaded you will soon be strengthened to sustain the burden of your griefs, and to rejoice in the midst of affliction;—and is there not in reality cause to rejoice even now, for the *dear deceased* at least? Only consider the wonderful difference betwixt the world he

has left, and that to which he is removed. Think of the difference betwixt a life of certain cares, and probable sickness and sorrow, and a life of ever-blooming youth and endless felicity! You know, my dear Madam, that death is not *annihilation.*—No, it is *the gate of immortality*—the Jordan which must be passed before any mortal can arrive at the heavenly Canaan; before any child of God can be put in possession of his eternal inheritance; before he can obtain the crown of glory; before he can be admitted to the presence of his God and Saviour. Endeavour then, I earnestly entreat you, to banish from your mind the melancholy idea of a mangled corpse, waiting the arrival of the coroner; and cherish in its room the delightful idea of an innocent soul springing from its tabernacle of earth, and conducted by angels to the mansions of bliss. When the corpse lay in the state above-mentioned, it no longer constituted a part of your dear child, and even the body itself was past all sense of pain. Why then should it be an object of lamentation? But it may be said, that an instant *before* the dear child was living, and hastening with delight to those friends who he knew would welcome him with joy. Very true; but was he not an instant after delivered from mortality, and hastening, as we may reasonably suppose, with delight unspeakable, to the presence of his heavenly Father, whose arms of everlasting mercy were open to receive him? But his poor afflicted mother is deprived of her greatest earthly

comfort.—She may then look up with the confidence of hope to the God of Heaven for comfort, far beyond any that mortals can bestow. She expected, from his promising virtues, that he would be the stay of her age, the solace of her widowhood.—But are not there promises in Scripture, that to all whom God sees fit to afflict, he will be himself the sure friend. Depend upon it, the widow who trusts in God will never be forsaken. This darling child might have laid such hold of her affection, as to have taken her thoughts from heavenly things. A great temptation is certainly taken away by his death. She may now safely indulge the hope of being happy with him—happy for eternal ages. A few short years of human life will soon pass away. All beyond the grave is bright and inviting to those who love God; to those who love Christ, and wish for his appearing. I beg your pardon, my dear Madam, for thus obtruding my advice upon you, who think so justly and so piously upon all occasions; but the best of Christians are apt to faint when sudden afflictions come upon them; and it is the office of friendship to soothe them. I wish you could be prevailed upon to come to us. We could not think it any trouble to contribute all in our power to your consolation. I hope you will excuse the liberty I have taken of requesting a friend of mine to visit you in your present abode, in order to enforce my request. Her name is ———. She is, I believe, going to Liverpool this week. You will find her

a charming woman; her mind replete with piety and good sense; she has been tried in the furnace of affliction, and has conducted herself in the most exemplary manner in some of the most critical situations. I am sure you would be delighted with her if you knew her virtues. I hope I was not too late in my application to Mrs. H——; for it would give me particular satisfaction to hear of you and Mrs. G—— from somebody who had seen and conversed with you.

Believe me, dear Madam,

Your obliged and affectionate friend,

S. T——.

During Mrs. Denward's residence in the neighbourhood of Liverpool, she was led by her natural benevolence, and the desire to turn her mind from her recent misfortune, to enquire after some charitable institutions in that place. The account of the Blue Coat Hospital obtained her notice, and interested her much; in consequence of which, she received the following letter and narrative, which she communicated to Mrs. Trimmer, whose intention it was to have published them in her Œconomy of Charity, but the papers were unfortunately mislaid, and her design frustrated. This she regretted

very much, as she thought it a duty to society to *let the light of such good works shine before men,* that the example might be extensively useful.

TO MRS. DENWARD.

Madam,

The benevolent attention you have been pleased to give to the children of the poor educated in this place by public charity, has induced me (though a stranger) to take the liberty to request the favour of your acceptance of the enclosed manuscript. It was transmitted to me some time since by the present Mr. Blundell, of Liverpool, and contains a pleasing narrative of the rise and progress of a very flourishing Institution in that place, founded and brought to perfection by the perseverance and unremitted assiduities of his worthy father. It is related with so much unaffected simplicity, and breathes such an amiable spirit of benevolence, that I am persuaded the perusal will be grateful to the feelings of a mind endowed with the tenderest sensibility.

Mr. Blundell was bred to the sea, and was an ornament to the profession. The traces of a superintending Providence, in the course of his successful labours, are evidently manifest from a perusal of the narrative. After some years of fortunate industry, he was enabled to relinquish his employment upon the waters, and he devoted the

residue of his days, and a large portion of his fortune, to the accomplishment of an undertaking of the most extensive utility. Such a singular and extraordinary instance of benevolence, attended in every successive stage with many Providential circumstances, cannot be too generally circulated, as it may have a tendency to excite in others an emulating spirit of beneficence to such useful Institutions. This, Madam, was the motive which induced the present Mr. Blundell to suffer the enclosed manuscript to go abroad from the closet of his deceased father, and not a vain ostentation of publishing his beneficence.

Whilst the gay and the volatile are dissipating their fortunes in trifling amusements, which fade with the fleeting moment, the patrons of those useful Institutions for cloathing and educating the children of the poor, will enjoy that calm and heart-felt satisfaction which the world can neither give or take away.

I remain,

Madam,

With every respect,

Your most obedient servant,

THOMAS HINDERWELL, Jun.

Scarborough,
September, 1788.

A Narrative of the Rise and Progress of the Charity School, or Blue Coat Hospital, in Liverpool, made by Mr. BRYAN BLUNDELL, *Treasurer, from the Year* 1709, *to near the Time of his Death in* 1755. *He relates how wonderfully the good Providence of God has done for this School since its Institution in the Year* 1709.

Mr. Robert Stithe, one of the Rectors at that time, and myself, were very intimate. I was then master of a ship in the foreign trade. We agreed to use our best endeavours to found a Charity-school, and applied to the Mayor, and some of the most respectable inhabitants, who joined in the business, and subscribed some twenty, some thirty, and some forty shillings a-year, to the amount of sixty or seventy pounds per annum. We then built a little school-house, which cost thirty-five pounds, and appointed a master, at twenty pounds per annum, which was paid out of the money collected at the sacraments, and took fifty poor children into the said school, cloathed and gave them learning. Mr. Robert Stithe was then made Treasurer; and I went to sea on my employment, telling Mr. Stithe that I hoped to be giving him something every voyage for the school.

In 1713 Mr. Stithe died; from 1709 to the time of his death I had given him two hundred and

fifty pounds on my several voyages; two hundred pounds of which he had put out to interest. When I came home, and found he was dead, it gave me much concern for the school, as Mr. Richmond, the other Rector, was much indisposed at times, and not able to undertake such a charge. I therefore determined to leave off the sea, and undertake the care of the school, and was chosen treasurer in 1714; at which time there was two hundred pounds at interest, which was all the stock the school had. In a little time I saw some of the children begging about the streets; their parents being so poor as not to have bread for them, which gave me great concern, insomuch that I thought to use my best endeavours to make provision for them, so as to take them wholly from their parents, which I hoped might be promoted by a subscription. I therefore got an instrument drawn out for that purpose on parchment, went about with it to most persons of ability, and many subscribed handsomely. On the strength of which I went to work, and got the present Charity-school built, which has cost between two and three thousand pounds, and was finished in 1718; at which time I gave, for the encouragement of the charity, seven hundred and fifty pounds, being a tenth part of what it pleased God to bless me with, and did then purpose to continue to give the same proportion of whatever he should indulge me with in the time to come, for the benefit and encouragement of the said charity. So great has been the mercy and

providence of God in prospering me in business, that I have made up the seven hundred and fifty to two thousand pounds, which I have paid to the use of the school; and my children (six in number, the youngest of them now near thirty years of age) are so far from wanting or being worse for what I have given to the school, that they are all benefactors to it; some of them more than one hundred pounds at a time. I may truly say, whilst I have been doing for the children of this school, the good providence of God hath been doing for mine, so that I hope they will be benefactors to this charity when I am in my grave. In 1726, ten more children were taken into the school. In 1735, the sixty children were taken to lodge and diet wholly from their parents. In 1742, ten more children were admitted, which made our number seventy. In 1744, Mr. Foster Cunliffe gave one thousand pounds for the use of the school, which was put out to interest to the Corporation at 5 per cent. Our stock by good Providence encreasing, and being very desirous of seeing one hundred children in the place before I died, I got a second instrument drawn on parchment in 1747, and solicited subscriptions to enable us to take in thirty children more. Accordingly two thousand pounds was subscribed, upon which we determined to trust the good providence of God, which hath always made up our deficiencies; and in 1748, we took in thirty children more, so that there now are seventy boys and thirty girls—in all one hundred—a sight

I much and earnestly desired to see before I died. The charge is now seven hundred pounds per annum, towards which we have, by the blessing of God, attained to a stock or income of four hundred pounds a-year, the other three hundred pounds comes in by gifts and legacies, so that we have never yet wanted at the year's end, but always continue encreasing a little. I have now been treasurer thirty-seven years, in which time more than four hundred children have been put out apprentices, mostly to sea, in which business many of them are masters, and some mates of ships; several of them have become benefactors to the school, and useful members of society.

We take the children into the school at eight years of age, and put them apprentice at fourteen, and give forty shillings apprentice fee with each. The method observed with the children in the school is as follows, viz. one half of the day the boys are employed in picking oakum by which they earn fifty pounds a-year; the girls are employed in spinning cotton, and earn about twenty pounds per annum; in all about seventy per annum towards their maintenance: the other half of their time is applied to their instruction in reading, writing, and common arithmetic.

It is so useful a charity, that I have frequently wished to see as many charity-schools as we have churches in town, which are four, and I yet hope the good providence of God may bring it to pass in the next generation.

Soon after the school was built in 1720, we applied to get a charter, but it was not granted, the school not being upon a Royal foundation.

In August, 1739, we obtained a decree in chancery, by which the school is vested in fifty trustees, any twelve of which make a committee, who meet quarterly at the school, to admit the children, and do other necessary business.

So far Mr. Bryan Blundell's narrative.

Mr. Treasurer Bryan Blundell died in the year 1755, and his son Richard Blundell, Esq. was appointed Treasurer in his room.

1759, twenty more children were admitted, which made the number 120.

1760, Mr. Richard Blundell died, and his brother Jonathan Blundell, Esq. was made Treasurer.

1763, eighty more children were admitted; made the number 200;—150 boys and 50 girls.

1770, twenty more boys admitted; made the number 220.

1779, twenty more boys admitted; made the number 240.

1781, ten more boys admitted; made the number 250.

1783, ten more boys admitted; made the number 260;—210 boys and 50 girls.

The children are wholly taken from their parents, and subsisted by the charity.

JOURNAL

FOR THE

YEAR 1796.

Jan. 1. It has pleased God in his infinite goodness and mercy to bring me to the beginning of a new year, and I desire to begin it with praise and thanksgiving, my heart at this moment glows with gratitude unfeigned, but that my thanksgiving may be the more fervent, let me meditate on the mercies which I have received in the course of the last year. O what an impracticable task would it be to attempt to call to remembrance the ten thousandth part of them! they have been more numerous than the moments which measured time; nay, every moment has had, with respect to myself, numberless blessings attached to it; and I reckon myself besides a sharer in those bestowed upon my family; nay, by divine contemplation, I have made myself in some degree a sharer with those dear friends who I trust are now in the enjoyment of heavenly blessings, and I have been a sharer

also with such of my fellow-mortals to whom it has pleased the Almighty to make me the instrument of good. Some cares and anxieties I have undoubtedly experienced, but they have been made to produce to me the blessed fruits of that peace which passeth all understanding. Every circumstance which occasioned me uneasiness, now it is passed and gone, appears to me in the light of a blessing: the Lord has chastened and corrected me, but he has not given me over unto death. O Almighty God, Father of all mercies, with a truly thankful heart I acknowledge thy great goodness to me in the course of the last year, and I bless and praise thy holy name for all thy mercies bestowed upon me and my dear family. Thou hast been truly gracious to us; thou hast truly been to us the father of the fatherless, and the husband of the widow! how can I express my gratitude for thine unbounded, thine unmerited goodness. O most gracious Father, I acknowledge thee to be the greatest and the best of beings; I honour, I adore, I worship thee, as my Creator, my Governor, my God! and I love thee as my Almighty Father, my most bountiful Benefactor! may thy goodness ever be extended to me, for without it I cannot exist a moment. I know, O Lord, that all I am and have comes from thee, and still depends upon thee. I humbly commit to thy fatherly care and protection myself and my whole family; be pleased to give us in the year which is now begun, whatever thou seest best for

us, and in thy great goodness preserve us from all our enemies both spiritual and temporal. O most gracious Father, continue to look with kindness on every one of my dear children; let them not feel the want of that dear parent whom thou didst see fit to remove from this mortal state, and grant that I, their widowed mother, may in all things do my duty towards them. Vouchsafe to maintain that brotherly love which happily subsists among my children, and incline every one of them to help the others as occasions may require. O Lord God, I pray to thee also for those who are become as children to me by marrying my children: may they discharge their duty, and share thy favour; and I pray likewise for their tender offspring. Be pleased to keep all these dear babes under thy protection, and sow in their infant minds the seeds of goodness. Lord, they have been devoted to thee in holy baptism. O keep them as thy adopted children within the fold of Christ's flock, and give them grace that they may as their reason expands, be ready to receive that instruction which I trust their parents will give them.

O most gracious Father, I once more most solemnly devote myself to thy service. I once more resolve to lead a holy and religious life, making thy commandments the rule of my actions. I resolve to do my duty in every relation of life with a regard to thy favour; and to keep my heavenly inheritance continually in view; but, alas, how weak are my resolves! whether I shall be able to

keep them or not depends entirely on thy grace. I know that I am a poor weak erring mortal, but as thou hast been pleased to put into my mind good desires, I humbly trust thou wilt bring the same to good effect. I earnestly beseech thee to grant me, fresh and large supplies of divine grace.

Adorable Saviour, Son of God! with the returning year I desire to renew my homage to thee! I acknowledge thee to be my Lord and my God, and I look for salvation through thee, and thee alone. I regard thee as my divine Master, and I will strive to do as thou hast commanded, and to follow thy blessed example; but this I cannot do of myself. O help me by thy grace. O divine and eternal Spirit, who proceedest from the Father and the Son, I acknowledge thee as the Sanctifier and the Comforter, and I yield my mind to thy heavenly guidance. Vouchsafe to purify and sanctify my heart, and to fill it with heavenly desires!

To the adorable Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, be ascribed all honour and glory, world without end! Amen.

Jan. 9. O what a wonderful Being is God! and how his perfections rise in estimation as we examine his works! how wonderful is his goodness, how infinite his wisdom, how unbounded his power! how incomprehensible the divine nature of the triune God! what a blessed privilege it is to be allowed to look up to the supreme Be-

ing as a Father; to contemplate the Son of God, as the kindest of friends: if such be the bliss of sinful mortals, what must be the enjoyment of angels? I look forward with hope of knowing by happy experience what this bliss is; I am truly desirous of heavenly bliss, and I trust I shall hereafter enjoy it. I will adore the God who bestows these hopes, and who alone can realize them.

O most gracious Father, I render thee humble thanks for the peace of mind thou hast been pleased in thy great goodness to vouchsafe me, and I most earnestly implore a continuance of it. I pray thee bestow thy blessing upon all my dear children, and teach them by thy good spirit to bear all the trials and disappointments of this mortal life with patience and serenity. Teach them to moderate their desires after worldly things, and keep them back from whatever may take off their attention from *the one thing needful.* O Lord, I most humbly beseech thee to extend thy blessing to all my dear grandchildren, and grant that as they grow in years they may grow in grace.

Jan. 17. On this day I entered into the 56th year of my age; what a length of time does it appear to look forward to, and how short when it is passed! How few of my fellow-mortals attain to the years of my life; how many thousands that were born since I was, have ere this mouldered to dust again! in the course of these years I have experienced numberless mercies, and I have

known the different vicissitudes of health and sickness, of affliction and joy.

With respect to my constitution, though I am subject to many little disorders, which at times make me feel uncomfortable, I have known but very little of the pains of acute diseases, and upon the whole have cause to be thankful for good health; and whenever it has pleased God to afflict me with sickness, I have had every means of relief, and every comfort I could possibly desire; and God has graciously endued me with patience and resignation, and sanctified my sickness to my soul's good. Indeed, I have been but very seldom confined to a sick-bed, but when I encreased my family; and under the pains of child-birth I was always supported by divine goodness, and rewarded by being made a joyful mother of a hopeful child. Twelve times has this mercy been bestowed upon me, and twelve times have I received the kind congratulations of the tenderest of husbands on the addition of what he always regarded in the light of a blessing. The pains of child-birth have been moreover amply rewarded by the delight which I experienced in seeing my dear family grow up in the nurture of the Lord, and, as I humbly trust, in favour with God and man. With regard to those evils which affect the mind, I certainly have known some very heavy ones: the loss of dear and kind relations, particularly of three children, and of a husband such as

falls to the lot but of few women; but under each of these afflictions I was supported by the goodness of God; his tender mercies were displayed towards me, and I was enabled to rejoice in his loving-kindness in the depth of woe: other afflictions I have sustained in consequence of the cares and disappointments incident to human affairs; these I have greatly added to by my apprehensions: just as the dreaded evil was expected to arrive, it was either averted, or by the goodness of God turned into a blessing.

Such has been the general course of my pilgrimage during the period of more than half a century; what ample cause then have I to be thankful! I cannot expect to live so many more years, nor does it appear to me desirable to live half the number, for I fear infirmities will come upon me long before that time, which will render my life then but labour and sorrow: however, I will be careful to live well, during the remainder of my days, be the allotment of them few or many. I will not think of fixing my tabernacle upon earth, but will look forward to my heavenly inheritance. How can I effectually secure this? only by faith, obedience, and repentance. My faith I trust is firm and lively, but my obedience must have been very defective.

O most gracious Father, with a full sense of my own transgressions, a hearty sorrow for sin, and an unfeigned repentance, I presume to implore thy forgiveness for Jesus Christ's sake. I beseech

thee to pardon me, and grant me the assistance of thy Holy Spirit, to enable me to do my duty for the time to come. O Lord, I pray thee to enable me to govern my thoughts and desires, that I may not entertain any that are contrary to thy holy will and commandments. I pray thee most earnestly to keep me back from sin, and to lead me in the way of righteousness. O heavenly Father, Lord God Almighty, I fear to offend thee; I love, I reverence, I adore thee; I worship thee; I honour thee with my whole heart. O divine Son of God, my blessed Saviour and Redeemer, I desire to approve myself thy true and faithful disciple. Lord, I pray thee, grant me grace to be what one professing thy holy religion ought to be, in all goodness and charity. Enable me to keep my hopes and affections fixed upon heavenly things. O divine Spirit, vouchsafe once more to purify my heart from the pollution it has contracted: renew me unto righteousness and purity. Adorable Trinity, I beseech thee to receive my prayers, and grant that as I have entered upon another year of my mortal existence, I may begin and finish it agreeably to thy divine will and commandments.

O most gracious God, I humbly and heartily thank thee for the numberless blessings and mercies which thou hast bestowed upon me from my birth to the present hour, and I beseech thee to extend thy favour to me not only for the remain-

der of this short life, but through the endless ages of eternity. — — — — — — —

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Jan. 30. By the death of my dear sister-in-law I am placed in a new situation: I have a new character to support, that of a faithful executrix. There is not indeed much for me to do; but I will strive to do that little well. In the first place, I resolve to be very scrupulously true to the oath I am to take. I will also make a point of doing honour to the deceased, and I will act to the best of my power towards all with whom I shall be concerned in the management of these affairs, as I think she would have directed her executrix to act. I will also have a regard to the honour of my dear husband, whose representative I am in this business, by acting as I think he would have done; hitherto I have proceeded upon these principles; I have as yet nothing to reproach myself with in this matter. — — — — — —

One more resolution I make in respect to my executorship, that I will not contend for my right beyond the bounds of equity: I will sooner submit to a loss than disappoint the reasonable expectations of a number of persons. Having made these resolutions with a sincere intention of abiding by them, I will now address my heavenly Father, and pray for grace to fulfil them. — —

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Feb. 7. Most gracious and merciful God, my

heart is open to thine all-seeing eye. O that it were fit for the inspection of an all-perfect Being! but at the infinite distance which I am from thee, the Author of all perfection, this cannot be, after it has been defiled as it often and repeatedly has been by sin! O my God, I do most truly abhor sin, and grieve that I have committed it; but I can never make myself any other than a sinner; yet I will not grieve and afflict myself beyond measure; I will comfort myself by the divine promises; I will flee to the cross of Christ; though I have no merits of my own to plead, I have through thine infinite mercy an interest in those of the Redeemer of the World, who died for me and all mankind. O Lord God Almighty, I pray thee for Christ's sake to pardon all my sins, and give me a comfortable sense of thy divine favour. Most gracious God, it is my fervent desire to please and obey thee, and my serious intention to endeavour to do so; may thy good Spirit help my infirmities! — — — — — — —

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The hour is just arrived for my instructing my servants; that duty must not be omitted. The sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving must be deferred, for my heavenly Father prefers mercy to sacrifice. — — — — — — — —

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Most gracious and merciful Father, great God Almighty, I desire to close this holy day with supplication and thanksgiving. O my God, I hold

thy commandments in the highest reverence; I wish to make them the rule of my actions; I do not desire to see abolished one iota or tittle of them. I honour thee with the highest veneration my weak nature is capable of. It is to me a great grief that I should ever do any thing contrary to thy holy will; and I look forward with hope to the improvement of my nature; to the deliverance from the infirmities of the flesh, when I may render thee better service; the service of *angels*.—And may I aspire to such excellence? yes, poor weak sinful mortal as I am, I *may* aspire to this! O how transporting to the soul is this hope! O Lord, with my whole heart I thank thee for all thy goodness bestowed upon me without the least merit on my part.

O Lord, I value beyond all that this world can give, the inheritance which is prepared for thy faithful servants. O Lord, I pray thee, keep me by thy Holy Spirit in the way of righteousness, that I may not be deprived of the high prize of my calling: rather let me be deprived of every worldly possession; rather let me live a life of indigence in this world, than forfeit heavenly riches! if it be the will of my heavenly Father to give me an increase of the things of this world, may he give me moderation therewith: let me not set my heart upon them should they be bestowed!

O Lord, I grieve that any thing should draw my attention so powerfully to worldly concerns; but in my widowed state, I am called upon to act

a parent's part in a way which would not be necessary had I a husband: yet I must not be over anxious: I am unable to judge for myself what is the right path to pursue; this only I know, that I must not turn either to the right or the left from thy commandments. O most gracious God, it is my earnest desire in the midst of perplexing thoughts to do my duty, and to secure my eternal inheritance, let what will be sacrificed in this world. O Lord, I pray thee to regulate both my thoughts and my actions, that I may neither think, nor do, nor say any thing that shall displease thee. O most merciful Father, I thank thee with an unfeigned heart for all thy goodness to me and my dear children; I offer thee my tribute of gratitude for that sweet peace which I at this moment enjoy; with all humility I confess that I am unworthy of the least of all thy favours; yet I do most firmly believe that thou carest for me, and that thou dost regard me as thy adopted child for the sake of Christ Jesus our Lord: instead of being over anxious about worldly affairs, I will according to the invitation held forth in Holy Writ, cast my care upon thee. I will do what I think is proper for me, but I will endeavour to do it with confidence in thy good promises, and resignation to thy will. O Lord, I hope it is not contrary to my duty to desire, with respect to the business in dispute, to preserve my good name, but that shall be a subordinate consideration; to gain thy divine approbation, and the testimony of a good conscience, shall

be my first objects. I most earnestly beseech thee, O Lord, to guide me at all times by thy Holy Spirit. Every day's experience shews me more and more how much I stand in need of it; with respect to spiritual things, I feel myself a child, an infant; by myself I can do nothing. O lead me by the hand; cast me not off my God and Father!

O Lord, I beseech thee to take me and my dear family under thy guidance and protection; hide us under the shadow of thy wings; plead thou our cause, and let no one prevail against us to the injury of our immortal souls: but if it be thy good pleasure for the sake of our souls to disappoint our expectations with respect to temporal things, enable us to submit as becomes thy adopted children and the disciples of a Redeemer, who as man was made perfect by sufferings; yes, divine Redeemer, great and unequalled were the trials, the mortifications, the injuries thou wast called upon to sustain; but never didst thou give way to murmuring or discontent: let me consider how much better I am off with regard to the accommodations of human life, than thou wast, who, during thy painful ministry hadst not where to lay thy head. O let me not lose sight of thy divine example; let me not refuse to take up my cross willingly and follow thee! divine Saviour, I offer to thee with all humility, gratitude, and love, the homage of a heart devoted to thee! O that I could render it worthy of thy favour!

March 6. Once more am I retired for the purpose of holy meditation and prayer; my sins I would now call to mind, but the remembrance of them is fled from me; I am not conscious of any wilful deviation from the divine commands, excepting from the infirmities of my nature, these I fear I shall never get the better of till I am raised above humanity. I have this week received the Sacrament with a sick person, and think my mind has been strengthened since. I hope I do not deceive myself; I resolve, God's grace assisting me, to strive to do my duty in every relation of life; to wean my thoughts and affections as much as possible from the world, and to follow the example of my blessed Lord and Master; and to live as becomes a child of God, a member of Christ, and an inheritor of the kingdom of heaven. And now, O most gracious God, having made these resolutions, I most humbly and earnestly beseech thee, of thy great goodness, to grant me the help of thy Holy Spirit to enable me to keep them: as the first act of duty towards thee, my Creator, my Governor, my Benefactor, I pay thee the willing homage of a heart truly sensible of thy infinite goodness and perfection, and my own littleness and unworthiness, and I most humbly beseech thee to pardon all my sins and transgressions against thy commandments. O most merciful God, I know that thy commandments are good, and that in keeping of them there is great reward;

and thou knowest, great Searcher of hearts, that I really love thy law, and delight in thy word. I know that I cannot serve *Thee* and serve *Mammon* also; my choice is made and fixed, thee, O Lord God, will I serve, and thee will I obey. O grant me the assistance of thy grace, most holy God, to enable me to subdue all inordinate desires after the trifles of this life. I pray and beseech thee to defend me and my family against those who would wrong and oppress us; enable us to act towards them with uprightness, integrity, and candour, and make them to act towards us with justice; into thy hands I commit my cause, the cause of the widow and the fatherless. O Lord, be thou our helper and deliverer.

O Lord, vouchsafe to prosper my endeavours for the instruction of my servants, and bestow thy grace, I beseech thee, on him who has this night expressed a resolution to forsake sin, and lead a holy life; may he be firm and unshaken. O Lord, let me be instrumental to the turning him to righteousness, and O, mercifully grant me grace to fulfil my own duty, that while I teach others I may not myself be a cast-away. — — — — —

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March 27. O Lord, the disappointments I meet with from the world serve but to make me feel more sensibly my dependance upon thee. I have been taught to know that all I have comes from thee, and I see thy hand in every blessing that is bestowed, and thy blessings have been innumerable.

How is their value enhanced by the sense of thy fatherly tenderness and compassion!

Dear and adorable Saviour, I have this day approached thy holy table; and O what a feast of good things have I found there! my Lord and my God, my beloved Master, how sensibly did I feel thy kindness and compassion to me thy unworthy servant; thy poor weak handmaid! O Lord, I cannot express, but thou canst see the unfeigned gratitude of my heart towards thee, my Saviour and Redeemer! O Lord, thou knowest that I love thee. I am very zealous for thine honour; and I trust there are yet many in the land who wish most earnestly to see due honour paid to thee, and thy Gospel preached to the poor in its genuine purity. O that thy blessing may accompany the endeavours of all who strive to promote the knowledge and practice of thy holy religion. I have this day commemorated the greatest of all blessings to fallen man; thy resurrection from the grave, on which alone I build my hopes of a resurrection to eternal life and happiness.

April 3. It is graciously granted me to see the end of another sabbath, and to retire to my closet, that I may call my ways to remembrance; but nothing at present rises up to my confusion; all is peace within; I know that I am a sinner, but I know also that God is merciful; that he sent his Son into the world to die for sinners; I believe in the Son of God, I trust in his merits, and my soul rests in divine goodness. O most gracious

and merciful God, I am heartily sorry that I should in any thing offend thee; presumptuously I would not do it, for I love thy commandments, I know that in keeping them there is great reward. O Lord, thou knowest all my infirmities! all I ask is, that thou, O most merciful Father, wilt be pleased for Jesus Christ's sake to have compassion upon me, and order all things for my spiritual interest.

O Almighty God, I presume to supplicate thee in behalf of this sinful nation. Shower down thy grace abundantly, O Lord, most holy, in the minds of all ranks of people, and awaken them to godliness. O take not thy Holy Spirit from us! pitch thy tabernacle in the midst of us, and may all people flock to it! go forth with our fleets and armies, and let not a proud and impious enemy triumph over us. Spare thy people, good Lord, and bless thine inheritance for Jesus Christ's sake.

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O Almighty Father, eternal and most glorious God, with a heart full of awe, veneration, love, and gratitude, I now presume to address thee. How unspeakable is the privilege of being permitted and encouraged to draw near to thee, the fountain of all perfection! O most stupendous God, I know that the distance betwixt thee and me is infinite; thou art the only great and eternal One; I am an individual among a numerous race of sinners; a sinner myself, and unworthy of the least

of all thy mercies. O Lord, when I think of thy greatness, thy glory, thy perfections, I am in my own sight as nothing; and never could I have presumed to call thee Father, had I not been taught and encouraged to consider thee in this condescending light, by thy own Son, my adorable Saviour. O most gracious God, I feel thy loving-kindness most sensibly, and my heart conceives those thanksgivings which no human words can express. My Father! my heavenly Father! most merciful, most compassionate, most gracious God! vouchsafe to receive from me the humble tribute of a grateful heart, the only tribute I can offer for numberless blessings received from the first moment of my existence during the revolution of more than half a century! O my God, when I contemplate thy goodness to myself only, I am lost in wonder and admiration; yet I am but one, among myriads, who at this instant are partakers of thy bounty. How infinite must that goodness be which extends from age to age, and which will be constantly exerting itself in boundless space; in thousands of worlds to all eternity! O my Father, my Father, God of my life! when I view with attention the smallest of thy works, I see the visible traces of infinite wisdom and power; how astonishing must that power and wisdom be which could design and create a universe! O my God! the perfection of thy divine attributes is a subject too great and high for mortal powers, but it is my delight to trace thee according to my imperfect ca-

pacity in the works of nature. How beautifully hast thou adorned the earth of which I am now an inhabitant! O Lord, how wonderful are thy works, the earth is full of thy goodness; so is the great and wide sea also, in which are things creeping innumerable both small and great. When I consider the heavens the work of thy hands, the moon and the stars which thou hast ordained, I say with the Psalmist, Lord, what is man, that thou art mindful of him, or the son of man that thou regardest him? O my God, with these sentiments which I have of thee, why do I ever offend thee? O that I could at all times do thy holy will! but my nature is frail, I am a poor weak mortal, I cannot always stand upright. Vouchsafe, I most humbly beseech thee, to pardon all my sins, for the sake of my blessed Saviour. O Lord and heavenly Father, blot out, I implore thee, from thy book all my transgressions! I have, I trust, this day been washed anew in the blood of my dear Redeemer, and I trust I have in me that spiritual life which Christ alone can give; view me not, merciful Father, according to my own sinful nature, but as a member of Christ; own me as thy adopted child! give me what I stand in need of in this life, but above all the help of thy Holy Spirit; and admit me hereafter to thy glorious presence in heaven! O Lord God, my soul hath a longing desire to behold thy glory in heaven; to see my Redeemer's face; to join the society of angels! I long for higher powers, that I may perform thy

will better than I can now do it. But I will patiently abide till thou shall see fit to call me hence. But O, while I dwell on earth, vouchsafe to employ me as an instrument of thy good Providence towards my fellow-creatures. O that I could for ever abstain from the commission of evil. Most gracious Father, thou knowest the inmost recesses of my heart; if there is any way of wickedness in me, cleanse me, I beseech thee, by thy Holy Spirit, and lead me in the way everlasting. O Lord, how fully have I experienced the truth of thy divine promises; how kindly, how graciously, how tenderly hast thou ordered the ways of thy Providence towards me and my children; even in thy chastisements I discern thy loving kindness both to them and me. Praised be thy holy name, not only for what thou hast graciously given, but also for what thou hast withheld. O Lord, there is nothing but goodness in the severest of thy dispensations towards thy servant: do with me whatsoever pleaseth thee, I only pray for the aid of thy Holy Spirit to strengthen me to bear whatever thou seest fit to inflict. O Lord, most holy, I pray that I may be able to set thee ever before me!

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I lift up my soul to the abode of angels for an inheritance among them. I long for the crown of glory. I earnestly desire to behold my God and Saviour! how wonderful is the goodness and mercy of God; how far beyond all praise is the Cre-

ator of the universe! how my soul honours, loves, and adores the Redeemer of a lost race! what felicity it is to have a divine Sanctifier; a Holy Ghost to comfort and instruct us! my soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit has greatly rejoiced in my Saviour. Innumerable troubles have come upon me, but my sure trust is in the mercies of God!

Dear departed relatives, husband, father, mother, children, I hail you! unknown celestial friends, angels of heaven I hail you! ye multitudes of just men made perfect to whom I shall be hereafter, as I humbly trust, a blessed associate, I hail you! my soul looks up to God; it relies on the promises and the merits of a crucified Redeemer. — —

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June 12. I once more address myself to God from this blest retirement; I esteem the place blest because it is here that my soul holds communion with God. What a privilege it is to sinful mortals to hold communion with the most perfect and excellent of Beings! what a privilege to be sensible of the love of the great Father of the universe! what a privilege and blessing to receive immediately from God through the Saviour of the world, that peace which passeth all understanding! while I think of this my soul rises above all mortal things, it cannot stop its aspirations towards the fountain of all good. O let all the angelic host lift up their voices in praise to our common Maker! O that every being that is blessed with the know-

ledge of God, may unite in praising and adoring him! O Lord, thou only art great, thou only art good, thou only art almighty. Glory be to thee on earth and in the heaven of heavens!

Aug. 7. O most gracious God! I have still many things to care for, but thanks to thy goodness and tender mercy, my soul is at this blest moment free from care. My children are, as I humbly trust, thy children, and thou wilt do what is best for them. Thou wilt not leave them! thou wilt not forsake us, most gracious Father. O merciful God, I humbly commend to thee my children and grandchildren wheresoever dispersed. — — — — — — — —

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Aug. 14. The heat of the weather rendered me unfit for writing this afternoon; but I have been reading better things than I could have written; some part of Bishop Taylor's work on holy living and dying, which I hope will furnish me with good thoughts, and strengthen my good resolutions. It is my earnest desire to spend my time well, and I humbly trust I do not trifle much of it away. I am covetous of time, I grudge that which I am obliged to waste, sometimes from weariness, sometimes from the interruption of company. If I know my own heart, my intentions are in general pure, but perhaps I err more frequently than I am aware of; I will keep a strict watch over myself.

I have this day visited two persons who are

apparently very near the period of their dissolution. One of them a young woman dying of a consumption, the other an old man naturally of a strong constitution. Death is very awful, let it come in what shape it will; but the struggle of nature where the constitution is strong, occasions dreadful pangs; however, God is all-sufficient, and none but the dying can know how those pangs are lessened by his goodness. Perhaps the body gradually loses sensation, or the intellect is suspended, or where it is continued unspeakable comforts are given to the good, and their hopes of futurity raised. I will not then fear death; if I live the life of a Christian, Death will lose his sting. I shall be the conqueror, through Jesus Christ.

Sept. 3. — — — — — — —
It is very uncertain whether I shall remain fixed in my habitation or not. I should be sorry to leave the schools and the poor; if they were out of the question, I think, I should have no objection to removing; and yet the house in which I have lived so many years, and brought up all my children has its attractions, but God only knows how long I may be an inhabitant of this world, let me, therefore, think of my tabernacle in the heavens! — — — — — — —
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O most gracious God, how often hast thou calmed my troubled soul and hushed it into peace! how often hast thou by thy Holy Spirit raised my thoughts from the trifles of this life, to the treasures

and joys of the life to come! O what a foretaste dost thou afford me of the joys of Heaven in the peaceful hours which I pass in this retirement; and in the delight and admiration with which I view the works of thy hands, and contemplate the wonders of thy love! pardon, pardon, most gracious God, my sins of infirmity, and strengthen me to serve thee better for the time to come!

I know that in the virtue of patience, I am still very deficient. O Lord, thou dost perhaps suffer these vexations to fall in my way on purpose to exercise my patience, and when that end is answered, thou wilt remove them. Thy will, thy blessed will, O Lord God Almighty be done, for that I know is right, and good, and holy. All thy commandments are just and right, and in keeping of them there is great reward.

O keep me, gracious Father, in the knowledge and love of thee, and of our Lord Jesus Christ. While I live in this world grant me, I beseech thee, the means, the inclination, and the opportunity of doing good. O may I be to all eternity, the instrument of good in thy hands! take not thy Holy Spirit from me, help my infirmities, receive me hereafter to glory. All this I ask for Jesus Christ's sake.

Oct. 9. I was particularly uneasy last week at the illness of my dear son, and upon reflecting on the perplexing state of our law-suits; but from morning till night I applied closely to my delightful employment, and found a sure remedy against

care. I have at length brought my work to a conclusion, but it wants correcting and improving. I hope it will please God to assist me by his Holy Spirit in completing it in such a manner, that it may prove the humble means of spreading Christianity in the world. — — — — —

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O how dreary, how dismal, would have been my passage through this world of cares, had not my soul been indulged with the bright though distant prospect of the heavenly Jerusalem. O Almighty Father, I am still in the midst of perplexities, but I trust in thy good Providence. I am engaged in law-suits, but I desire no further gain by them than what is consistent with thy holy commandments. Perish the riches that would draw my heart from thee my God. Let me lose any thing and every thing, rather than lose thy favour, and forfeit my heavenly inheritance! — — — — —

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How does it grieve my soul to read and hear of the encreasing corruption of this nation! may thy grace, O divine Lord, preserve me and my family from the contagion of example. Blessed Saviour, as far as depends upon me, I am ready to say, with my whole heart, *as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord!* O may thy Grace strengthen this resolution, and keep us ever in the way everlasting!

Most gracious God, the supreme Disposer of all events, I presume to implore thee in behalf of this sinful nation. O Lord, withhold thy impending judgment, be pleased to turn away the fierceness of thine anger. Vouchsafe to sheath the sword of war, and give peace to the nations. Let not those who are now equally impious with the Heathens of old, tread down thy faithful people. O Lord, vouchsafe to check the progress of infidelity and enthusiasm among us, and let the Gospel be preached in its utmost purity. Grant to our senators wisdom, and bless our good sovereign with national and domestic comforts. O Lord, have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, for Jesus Christ's sake!

O what is there in this vain world worth setting ones affections upon. Nothing for me now, but my dear children, and they may soon be snatched away from me, or I from them; I will not, therefore, love them as mortals only, but as beings who are to exist with me in a future state; not as my children only, but as fellow citizens of the heavenly Jerusalem. Considered in this light, I think, I can part with my children, as I was enabled to part with those who are gone before me, with resignation to the will of God; or I can bid them farewell with the hope that they will follow me to the same blessed place, if it should please God to summon me away; how delightful it is to me as a mortal, to consider myself as a citizen of Heaven! what glorious privileges are annexed to this title!

an inheritance that fadeth not away! a crown of glory, the society of Angels! admission to the presence of God! to dwell with Christ, to be exempt from pain and sorrow. I cannot, I know, conceive any thing like what it actually is, but I can imagine enough to make me long to enter the regions of bliss. I feel ambitious of joining with Saints and Angels; I have but very feeble powers, but I will stretch them forth; I will lift up my soul towards the hills from whence cometh my help.

Oct. 28. — — — — — — — I have received numberless mercies, for which I desire to return thanks to God. But how shall I call them to mind they are beyond number. I thank thee, O gracious Father, for thy great goodness in granting to me health of body and tranquillity of mind, and for all other personal blessings conferred upon me. I thank thee also, most gracious God, for all the blessings bestowed upon my dear children, and for the addition of another dear grandchild to my numerous family. O may they all walk in the ways of holiness, and may thy Grace be upon the new-born infant from the time of its birth, till its departure out of this mortal life, that it may be among the number of thine elect. O Lord, it is going to be presented to thee in Holy Baptism; may it be received as thine adopted child, through Christ Jesus our Saviour. O divine Lord, adorable Redeemer, vouchsafe to receive this tender babe into thy flock. O Lord,

when through thy meritorious suffering, I shall be raised with the rest of human kind from the dead, may I find all my dear children, and my childrens' children among the blessed!

Dec. 25. This day is doubly sanctified, being at once the Sabbath of the Lord, and the anniversary of my Saviour's birth. I wish to keep it with redoubled solemnity. I would on this holy day call all my sins to remembrance, but as usual now I set about this employment, my mind is filled with that peace, which passeth all understanding. I have been to church this morning, it was an unspeakable pleasure to me to see so many of my own household at the Lord's Table. O that the congregation in general did but know the comfort of this holy institution, that they might not turn their backs on that heavenly feast!

O most merciful Father, give, I humbly beseech thee, to me and all my family, the help of thy Holy Spirit. Let every individual of it be constantly attentive to the happiness of all the rest, and let our lives here be in this respect, a foretaste of the happiness of Heaven, where all is harmony, peace, and love. And now, O most merciful and gracious Father, I offer unto thee, the tribute of my humble thanksgivings for all thy goodness to me, but particularly for lending thine ear to my humbly petitions when I cried unto thee. O Lord, I thank thee for that peace of mind, which I have enjoyed in the midst of perplexity; I thank thee for giving me strength and ability to continue

my work, and for the delight I have had in explaining the Gospel to the poor. How transcendant is thy goodness, how unbounded thy love to sinful mortals. O God, when I think of thy majesty and greatness, I am lost in wonder that thou shouldst regard such creatures, but thy mercy is over all thy works, and thy word invites sinners, repentant sinners, to approach thee with confidence, through the satisfaction of a crucified Redeemer, I know that without a Redeemer no man in thy sight could be justified; but be our sins red as crimson, they may be washed white as snow by the blood of the Lamb. — — — —

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When I examine by the help of a microscope, the works of God, I am delighted with the beauty and symmetry of them, and my heart sends forth its praises. Perhaps, I shall hereafter be permitted to explore the wonders and beauties of other worlds. There will be employment enough for eternity, to contemplate the works of God. How wonderful it is to think of the Providence of the great Creator and Governor of the universe! my soul honours and adores his Divine Majesty. How delightful to think of his works of grace! my soul loves him with all its strength; but alas, that strength is but weakness. How I shall love God, when I am delivered from the infirmities of the flesh, and have no worldly cares to depress my rising soul when it would soar on the wings of devotion to Heaven. O that I could praise my Ma-

ker in fit strains! may his praise resound from the highest Heaven to distant worlds! — —

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My soul is greatly ambitious of being among the fellowship of the saints in light; it looks forward to an eternal inheritance; it longs for the heavenly Jerusalem; it will not fix its affections on earthly riches, which cannot satisfy an immortal spirit. O no, it will not, for the sake of any thing this world can give, forego the hopes of eternal possessions; O what a world is this! how sad it is to see the numberless acts of oppression and injustice, which are practiced in it; may I ever detest and abhor such practices! may I ever act as becomes the adopted child of God; as a true disciple of the adorable, the divine Saviour!

O Lord God Almighty, great Author of the universe, the Creator, the Governor, the Preserver of thousands of worlds, and myriads of living creatures; I adore, I praise, I magnify thy glorious name; I think of thee in the highest manner my weak faculties will admit of, and I believe thee to be great beyond all praises! to be infinitely wise, good, merciful, bountiful, to be all perfection. O that I could praise thee in terms suited to the exalted idea I have of thy divine nature and attributes.

Lamb of God, Son of the Father, the Redeemer of the whole race of mankind, I adore, I worship,

I honour thee, even as I honour the Father. Glory and honour, and praise and thanksgiving be unto thee, O King of kings, and Lord of lords, for ever and ever!

Spirit of Sanctification! I believe thee to be very God, I yield my soul to thy guidance, I look to thee for sanctification! glory be to thee, O God!

Praise and dominion, honour and power be ascribed to the adorable Trinity, for everlasting ages!

TO MRS. BRUTTON.

Brentford, May 5, 1796.

My dearest Friend,

I cannot express to you how great my pleasure was, at receiving so long a letter written by your own hand. I am sorry you have had such painful reasons for your silence. If I had known of Mr. Brutton's illness, I should have felt greatly, both for him and you; nay, I should have felt over again what I suffered on similar occasions. But to *me* those sufferings can never be renewed, except by retrospection; and may divine mercy henceforth avert them from *you!* O my dear friend what a train of tender recollections crowd into my mind at this instant! but thanks to the goodness of God! they never come unaccompanied by those comforts and consolations, which his holy word promises to *the widow that trusteth in him;* the truth of those divine promises has been abundantly experienced by me; and for ever praised be his Holy Name for keeping alive in my mind the constant hopes of being reunited to the late dear partner of all my joys and sorrows, and of passing a happy eternity with him! without these hopes, I fear, I could not have submitted, with perfect resignation to the will of God, to the loss of the kindest of husbands, the father of my beloved children! but while I can indulge these hopes, he is not lost to me.

But my dear friend, you are, I trust, in no danger of becoming a widow. If it had pleased the Almighty to have called you to the same trial, to which his wisdom saw fit to call me, I would have told you "what he has done for my soul!" I will quit my pen for a few moments.

The account which you give me of Mr. and Mrs. B——— delights me. How comfortable, is it to hear of such characters in the midst of so much wickedness and impiety, as prevails in the world! I am happy to say, I know many whose principles are good, but few comparatively whose judgment is equal to their's. Many religious people fall into enthusiasm, accompanied by severity, which hurts the cause.

I did not know that you were so greatly attached to Ipswich. I cannot say the place has any great attractions for me; I like to walk about it, and to visit the font where I was dedicated to Christ, but I should by no means wish to live at Ipswich. Were you to take your stand at the spot you propose, you would see a very great alteration; the Wash runs, I believe, in the very same channels from St. Magaret's parish, till it has passed your old habitation; but I think it must have been conveyed by a drain under-ground, from thence for the *Stepples* are gone! the whole town was paved when I was there, excepting St. Clement's which was doing. — — — —

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TO THE SAME.

Brentford, Oct. 5, 1799.

My dear Friend,

I am just returned from an excursion into Suffolk, where I have been for a month on a visit to my relation, Mr. William Kirby, Vicar of Barham, one of the sons of my late uncle. As Ipswich is only four miles from Barham, I went thither several times, and whilst I was retracing the footsteps of my childish years, and conversing with some of the companions of my earliest pursuits and amusements, I could not but think more than usual of the ever dear friend, whose society contributed so greatly to the happiness of my early days, and whose steady and uninterrupted friendship is still my pride and pleasure, notwithstanding the distance of our respective abodes prevents our personal intercourse. I wished, my dear friend, for your company on some occasions; but on others I did not do so, for your tenderness would have been painfully awaked by one affecting scene of which I was an eye witness. Yet it would have afforded you a high degree of satisfaction at the same time; as it did me. Many years had passed since I had seen any of the —— family, but on being told that Mrs. Ann and Mrs. Margaret, had expressed a great desire to see me once more, I went immediately to their house in St. Matthew's Street, where I found Mrs. Ann —— on her death bed, and

her sister preparing her own mind for that fatal stroke which was to separate them from each other to the end of time. This melancholy event took place whilst I was at Barham; and I am sure you will be happy to hear that the deceased bore her sufferings, which had for a long time been uncommonly severe with the most exemplary patience, and died the death of the righteous; and that her surviving friend submits to her loss with the most perfect resignation. When I made my visit to Mrs. Ann ——, she was supposed to be at the point of death; but the lamp of life appeared to rekindle as she cast an affectionate look upon an old friend, and poured forth blessings upon the memory of my dear and honoured father, whose kindness to them, she and her sister had never forgotten. I did not mention you to her for she was soon exhausted; but I told her sister I corresponded with you, and Mrs. Margaret —— charged me to convey her kindest and most affectionate remembrances.

I made a visit in the house where Mrs. Justinier's school was kept; it has been made into three houses.

The town is much improved by being well paved, but in other respects it is spoilt, for it is a direct garrison town. Horse Barracks have been made near where St. Matthew's Bargates stood; and Foot Barracks in another part, and you cannot get through a street without hearing drums and trumpets, and meeting troops of soldiers.

The following letters were addressed to a young lady who had been brought up in very genteel life, but met with an unexpected reverse of fortune, which made it necessary for her to turn her thoughts to the education of young ladies. In order to qualify herself for this employment, she requested the advice of Mrs. Trimmer, and after some months passed in indefatigable zeal and industry in order to fit her for the honourable and important office, she entered as Governess in a private family residing in a retired village in the country. As she had several pupils, who were nearly grown up, and was diffident of her own abilities she frequently applied to Mrs. Trimmer for instructions how to proceed. The first letter to Miss Harriet ——, was upon an occasion of this kind. The second related to a poor woman of the village, the others contain opinions upon different subjects.

TO MISS. HARRIET ——.

Brentford, Nov. 21.

My dear Harriet,

I am very sorry you have been kept so long in expectation of a letter from me, particularly at a time when you wished to receive it, but I was absent from home on a visit to my son J——, and

his wife, all the last week; and ever since my return, I have been so hurried with business which had accumulated as usual during my short absence, that I could not find a leisure half hour to devote to you, though I had you much in my thoughts. I am happy to find that you have in some degree got the better of your dejection of mind, which I was sorry you suffered, but which I could not without great unkindness blame in you, for the weakness of human nature, will, under great afflictions, prevail for a time even in the most religious minds; resignation and cheerful submission to the will of God, are in general the effects of prayer and exertion; the appointed means for obtaining that divine Grace, which alone can overcome our frailties and invigorate our minds. That this grace may be abundantly bestowed upon you, is my fervent wish! you do not know *me* my dear Harriet; if you did, you would not say, I should bear such trials as have fallen to your lot, better than you have done. My mind is naturally very weak; I owe every thing to divine goodness, assisting and strengthening me; and I can say with the greatest sincerity, that I think no person whatever, could have borne what you have done with more patience and submission than yourself. Do not, therefore, distress your mind with self-condemnation, but look up with full trust and confidence to your heavenly Father, who knowing all our infirmities, pities us, and makes every allowance that unbounded paternal love can make for his adopted children; and who

will never withdraw his protection from such whilst they endeavour to serve him truly; as I am persuaded you will do.

You have indeed an arduous task allotted you, there is apparently much to *do;* but remember my dear Harriet, that in the business of education, as far as it relates to the *religious principles,* you are but the instrument of his Providence; you may *plant* and *water*, and you may endeavour to *weed the soil;* but it is God who must *give the encrease.* Make it therefore, a part of your daily prayer to the Almighty, that the dear children, who have been adopted by him through Christ Jesus at their baptism, as well as yourself, may have the continuance of his grace and heavenly benediction. That he will be pleased to guide and direct you in the forming of their minds to goodness, and that he will bless your humble endeavours. And having done this proceed with courage and confidence in God, as occasion and circumstances shall require. Not that I would have you depend upon sudden divine impulses, for this would be enthusiasm; but after having prayed for divine aid, I would have you make use of your own reason, and you may then hope to be led on in the right way, and your deficiencies supplied both to yourself and your pupils by the assisting grace of God; or if, as may be the case, your pupils should fail of being all you wish them; take comfort in the rectitude of your intention, and the assiduity of your endeavours for their improvement. I am

sure you are mistaken in thinking you have not a manner that is pleasing to children. The fact is, those children have had governesses before of a different description; and they have formed a general opinion of the character of a governess, which will operate against you, till it is gradually removed by your kinder and more judicious treatment of them.

Without being present, I really am incapable of advising you how to proceed with the pupil you fear most of failing with. If you could lead her insensibly into situations which would shew her, her own deficiencies, it would do more towards correcting her vanity than any thing. Let her attempt things beyond her abilities, and when she fails of success, observe that you do not wonder at her not accomplishing every thing she supposes herself capable of, but that you hope it will make her less confident in her own abilities. But this must be done with good humour. In short, I do not know what to advise you; but if you proceed as I have recommended, I think *expedients* will be suggested by Infinite Wisdom, which in forming the minds of my own dear children, was a never failing source. Make the glory of God, and the good of your fellow-creatures, your ruling motives in all your undertakings, and you will be sure to do right; and remember it is for the performance of your own duty, not for the failure of other people you are accountable to the great Governor of all things. Be as lively as you can

with your pupils, and endeavour to make the most important things appear in an engaging light to them. Miss S—— will grow more and more attached to you, I dare say, for in such a retirement, she must want a young friend and companion. I am glad you have got some poor children to instruct. Could not you draw your pupils from their patch-work, to making baby things for the poor? Adieu, my dear Harriet, God bless, and prosper you.

Truly and affectionately,

Your's,

S. Trimmer.

TO THE SAME.

Feb. 6.

My dear Harriet,

I did not receive your letter till yesterday evening, and I fear it has been a long while coming by the date; you should have had a more immediate answer if it had arrived in due time; but I hope you have been able to decide the case of conscience to which it relates, to your entire satisfaction before this time; if not, I shall be happy to contribute to your ease and comfort.

You tell me, my dear Harriet, that this poor unhappy woman appears to you to be truly penitent. If she really is so, she is without doubt, *worthy to*

receive the Sacrament, and will be accepted by the divine Institutor of it. But you should endeavour to prevail upon her to confess all the sins she can recollect *particularly,* and to form a resolution to forsake them; and to assist her recollection, you may repeat the Commandments to her, stopping between each of them to give her time to consider, whether she has sinned against them or not. Or you may read to her, the heads of self-examination in the Manual of Devotion I gave you, which also contains some excellent prayers suited to the condition of sinners. But take care to encourage her as you go along, with the hope of pardon upon her sincere repentance, and faith in Christ, for you may safely do it, and I will venture to say, that her not having been confirmed, need not be any hindrance to her receiving the Sacrament; for though confirmation is undoubtedly a holy office, and such a one as should not be neglected, the Rubrick authorizes the clergy to administer the Sacrament to *some* who have not been confirmed, as you may see at the end of the office for confirmation; amongst which may be reckoned, this poor woman, who I make no doubt would gladly embrace the opportunity of being confirmed, could she obtain it. Adieu, my dear Harriet, believe me,

Your's affectionately,

S. T——.

TO THE SAME.

Brentford, April 9.

My dear Harriet,

Yesterday I despatched the last page of my Œconomy of Charity to the printer, and I have now taken out with a design to answer, the bundle of letters with which I have been favoured by my friends, while I have been so intensely occupied as to be under the necessity of appearing neglectful of them, which I assure you has been no small mortification to me; for I do not like to appear negligent, or ungrateful; but those who devote their services in any way to the *public*, are obliged to make sacrifices to private gratification. Now I have finished my book, I begin to be seriously apprehensive, that it will not answer the expectations of those who know I have been writing it; or please the taste of the age. However, it is well intended, and I hope will do *some good.* There is no part of it more to my own satisfaction; nor any upon which I form greater hopes of the efficacy of the example, than that concerning a *set of young ladies in a certain country village.* Indeed, my dear Harriet, now I have seen, and conversed with Miss S——, I am prouder of *you* than ever; yet what have I to be proud of in the business? It was your own zeal, and your own good sense working upon my slight hints that produced such good effects.

I do not wonder, my dear Harriet, that you should feel regrets at leaving a family, in which you found so many comforts; you are entered upon a very different scene, and your scale of action is greatly enlarged; but not beyond your ability to perform it; and the greater your labours and exertions, the greater will be your future reward; only keep *the high prize of your calling* constantly in view, and difficulties will vanish before you. Consider that it is not *where* we live, but *how* we live, on which our eternal happiness depends. I see, however, much temporal good in store for you. I do not doubt, but that you will be very successful; and that you will serve the cause you have so warmly at heart, by instilling religious principles into many a ductile mind. You are now become of real importance in society; and entitled to that respect, which will, I make no doubt, be paid to you. Next to clergymen, I rank those, who educate the young upon truly Christian principles. — —

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I long to know how you go on with your little Sunday School;—as you say, is indeed, a very unfavourable place for such experiments, and I think, you are quite right in not attempting too much. You had better instruct a few, agreeably to your wishes; than extend your instruction to a greater number than you can manage. Adieu, my dear Harriet,

Your's sincerely and affectionately.

S. T——.

TO THE SAME.

Brentford, April, 11.

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I have mislaid your last letter, after reading it once only, just as I was setting off for London, but I recollect, that you asked whether I thought young people should receive the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper immediately after confirmation. I do think they ought to do so, as soon as they can, while the impression of the former solemn rite remains on their mind; but I do not advise the using of the Weekly Preparation, as it is called; I should rather recommend Bishop Wilson's *Short and Plain Introduction to the better Understanding of the Lord's Supper.*

TO THE SAME.

Feb. ——.

My dear Harriet,

We keep looking for you every day, and hope it will not be long before we shall see you here. I cannot express to you the great pleasure and satisfaction with which I read your note to S——, I can bear witness with you, my dear Harriet, that the sentiments you therein express, are the genuine dictates of the Holy Ghost. Exactly such was

what I myself experienced under the great afflictions of my life, at times, when my reasoning powers were so deadened by sorrow, that I could not have exerted them to advantage. O how gracious is the Almighty! and how excellent is that Gospel which alone can furnish such heavenly consolations. You may consider them as an earnest, that you will be enabled to bear the burden, which God has seen fit to fall upon you, and I doubt not, but that it will be considerably lightened.

TO MRS. C——.

Aug. 7, 1802.

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Let me congratulate you, my dear Madam, upon your determination to become a member of the Church of England; a zealous Christian, I am sure you will ever be, and I hope it will please God to preserve you from all the errors which have crept into the Church, for they are various!

I would take the liberty of recommending you to read the works of good sound divines of the Established Church in preference, even to Doddridge and Watts, till your opinions are firmly rooted; for though those excellent men wrote well and usefully, they still were *Dissenters.* I think Mr. Daubeny's works would give you information. His "Guide to the Church," and the sup-

plement to it are ably written, and he has lately published a volume of Discourses on the connection between the Old and New Testament, and the Doctrine of Atonement, which I admire very much. I have read a little of Mr. Scott's writings. He is a good man, and a good writer, but I do not think with him in all points; neither do I altogether approve of *Law's Serious Call;* it aims, I think, at a degree of Christian perfection beyond the reach of human beings in this imperfect state. But, my dear Madam, let me beg of you to read some of the works of our old divines. *Jenkin's on the Christian Religion,* will, I think, give you information and satisfaction. Kettlewell's works (especially that on *Christian Obedience*) are excellent for giving clear and decided ideas of the peculiar doctrines of that church in which there should be no *schism.*

I have lately read two tracts, which to me are satisfactory. The one is, a republication of an old author, *Waterland on Regeneration,* the other *the Trial of the Spirits,* by Mr. Daubeny, I think, you will be pleased with them. — — —

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TO THE SAME.

My dear Madam,

I can easily conceive what your susceptible mind must have suffered under the successive

afflictions you have lately experienced; but I have no doubt of your having enjoyed the comforts which a merciful God, graciously mixes with the bitter ingredients of the cup of sorrow; of which all the candidates for everlasting life, must drink, for their soul's good. Your own proper reflections have anticipated all that I could offer by way of consolation, and I make no doubt, your mind is reconciled both to the *apparently* untimely death of your young friend; and the departure of your excellent parent from this world of troubles, since you have every reason to hope, that both are infinitely benefitted by that change which we are well assured is a most happy one, for those who have fulfilled their duty on earth, as they have done.

Poor Mrs. B——, is indeed, much to be pitied! her loss is truly a lamentable one! but still as you justly observe, not beyond the reach of that comfort, which God has graciously promised to those who submit with pious resignation to the dispensations of his will. I am afraid, before the contest in Spain is decided, she will have many fellow sufferers; but the cause of the Spaniards is such as calls for the aid of our nation; and indeed of every other nation that has any regard for its own safety. But alas, those on the continent, are either infatuated by the monster of iniquity, who is permitted (for wise and good purposes no doubt) to spread desolation in the world to a most

astonishing degree; or panic struck and deprived of all energy and hope. It is truly awful to contemplate the present state of the world! — —

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TO THE SAME.

My dear Madam,

I am ashamed to think how long I have suffered a letter from you, which gave me such particular satisfaction, to remain unanswered; but I am sure you will forgive me, when I tell you, that for a considerable part of that time, I continued, as your letter found me, in such an uncomfortable state of debility, that I really could not bear, in the literary way, even the little exertion that is necessary for writing a letter. In May I resolved to make an excursion from home, and try the effect of change of air and scene, and I took a journey into Suffolk, my native county, where I spent five weeks, with some friends, amongst whom with the blessing of God, I speedily recovered; and returned home in good health and spirits, which inestimable blessings are still continued to me, and give a relish to the rest, of that portion of comforts which a bountiful Providence bestows upon me. But so long an absence from home occasioned me a great accumulation of occupation, and I have really been very busy since my return; though I have left off,

probably for the remainder of my life, writing for the public. My family which receives the addition of three and four grandchildren every year, calls my attention various ways, and I have innumerable avocations which oblige me to write many letters, particularly on the subject of governesses, so that of late I have no leisure for friendly correspondencies, or I am sure you, my dear Madam, would not have had not any cause to complain of my neglect; indeed I am inclined to think, that your candour has partly anticipated my excuses.

By reading your letter over this morning, I have renewed the very great pleasure it afforded me, from the account you gave me of your late dear father, whom I do not scruple to mention to you from the fear of reviving your regrets; for as you could, when your loss was recent, think of it with such pious resignation, the recollection of his well spent life and most happy death, must always be pleasant and comfortable; and such as you cannot but wish frequently to enjoy. Believe me,

Dear Madam,

Most affectionately your's,

S. Trimmer.

Mrs. Trimmer's partiality to the house in which she had resided so many years surrounded by her children has been mentioned in various parts of her Journal, but it may be worthy of remark, that when she found it convenient to remove, she soon brought herself to be contented with the change; indeed, the peaceful serenity of her mind made her find enjoyment in every place, and in the present instance she rejoiced in having been able to meet with a comfortable and pleasant retreat where she could pass the remnant of her days in tranquillity and ease.

TO MRS. DENWARD.

July 8, 1803.

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I have been for some time settled in this house, to which I believe, I had removed when I wrote to you last; it is a very neat and convenient one, and particularly delightful to me at this time, as it stands in the midst of a garden, which is literally a *garden of roses*. From my upper windows I look beyond it, into surrounding fields, in which the hay is now making, in great abundance, and the scent of it mixing with the odour of the flowers

fills the air with fragrance. Of the delight arising to the senses from this fragrance, I am, however, excluded; for I never had to my remembrance, the sense of smelling: but I can rejoice with those who have it; as you, my dear Madam, participate with those who are still permitted to view the beauties of nature. — — — — — —

JOURNAL

FOR THE

YEAR 1797.

Jan. 1. In the course of the last year, I have had many cares to encounter, but I have likewise received innumerable blessings; let me call to mind those peculiar blessings, I at this time am in possession of. I enjoy better health than usual; my children are in general well. I possess great tranquillity of mind, and am full of the hopes of a happy immortality, through the merits of Christ Jesus, my adorable Saviour!

I am still with my family involved in perplexing law-suits of which I cannot yet see the end, and I fear, I shall feel many a pang of vexation and disappointment before they are terminated; but in this blest hour my heart standeth firm, trusting in the goodness of God. I will not, therefore, anticipate the cares even of the morrow, but cast my burthen upon the Lord, who I humbly trust careth for me.

I resolve to endeavour to improve all the time that it shall please God to add to my mortal life to his honour and glory, and the good of my fellow creatures, and in preparing myself for a future state.

Jan. 8. The time for the decision of one of our law-suits, apparently draws nigh; at present I have no apprehensions about it, but yet it may be decided to my disadvantage—God's will be done! my chief anxiety, I hope, will be to do my duty, and to resign myself to the will of God in all things; to keep my eternal inheritance continually in view, and not to risk the loss for any thing this vain world can give.

O most gracious God, I desire with humble supplication to lay my requests before thee, according to the direction of those Holy Scriptures, which thou hast caused to be written for our learning. Thou knowest my heart in respect to worldly concerns, that I do not wish for that which justly belongs to another, and that rather than lose thy divine favour, I would part with all I have in the world; but thou hast promised to defend the cause of the widow and the fatherless, and therefore, I cry unto thee. O Lord, I trust in thee with all my heart, I do not lean on my own understanding; in all my ways I desire to acknowledge thee. Vouchsafe, I pray and entreat thee to direct my paths; may I ever keep in the path that leads to eternal glory in the heavens!

Jan. 22. Let me now endeavour to take a retrospect of the week past, but how unequal am I even to this short task! I hope no part of the time has been spent in vain or foolish pursuits, for my mind, as far as I can judge of myself, is greatly weaned from the vanities of this mortal life, and instead of coveting its pleasures, my desires are limited to the conveniencies and necessaries of life. From the largeness of my family and my numerous connections and avocations, I can hardly expect to sit down in quietness and leisure; but by the goodness of God, I enjoy a considerable portion of peace, even in the midst of perplexities. This last week my time was greatly taken up with one of my dear little grandchildren, who has been in a very suffering state, but my thoughts have been diverted from other things which would have made me uneasy. One of our law-suits is drawing, I hope to a crisis; I think there is a prospect of its ending more favourably than I thought it would a few days ago. I resolve with the grace of God, to keep from anxious cares, and to trust in the Divine Providence. I cannot make one hair white or black; a sparrow does not fall to the ground without the permission of my heavenly Father; neither can any one succeed against us, but by his permission: but I forget that I sat down to call my sins to remembrance, and most willingly would I do it, for I would not dissemble or cloke them before the face of Almighty God, yet no traces re-

main on my mind, but a consciousness of general imperfection. I know that I have committed sins innumerable, and that I have omitted thousands of things which I ought to have done, and which I had the power to do; and I know that I have no merits of my own to plead, for I am an unprofitable servant; but my conscience acquits me of presumptuous sin, and I have confidence in God's mercy, through Christ; my beloved Saviour, who knoweth all my infirmities, and who knoweth also my earnest desire to please my heavenly Father, will, I trust, plead my cause and seal my pardon, and in his all-powerful intercession, I humbly trust. — — — — — — — —

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O what a world of wickedness is this become, which the Creator formed so good and beautiful! its beauty and goodness remain in respect to every thing, but those creatures for whose use he principally made it; but there are still some in it, who, though not free from sin, have yet a high regard for the honour of their Maker, and grieve to see the disorder which the wickedness of man has introduced among his works. O how delightful it is to contemplate the works of Creation and Providence, even in the midst of this confusion, and with the weakness of human intellect! what then will be the transport of contemplating them in a better world, with enlarged powers, and new faculties! I will try to look forward to this blest state, to divert

my thoughts from those cares which may otherwise invade my peace!

Jan. 29. Another Sabbath is arrived, and one month of the new year is already gone. How swiftly does time fly, how soon will the period of human existence arrive to all who are now in this world! — — — — — — — —

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Feb. 5. O eternal God, how awful is it to see thy judgments in the world! the scourge of war falls heavily on many nations; a fierce and impious foe is let loose, and many are the lives which are lost in battle. May it be thy good pleasure to restrain this wicked enemy from executing his proud threats against our nation! O Lord, thy judgments are very terrible. O that all the nations of the earth, may learn righteousness! may the nobles of this land, and all the rich and opulent take warning by the fate of those of another nation, who are now dwelling amongst us as wretched fugitives! may all ranks of people in this land return to their duty, and live according to the precepts of thy holy word!

Feb. 26. O it is a comfortable thing to think of heavenly joys; what must the fruition of them be! I resolve God's grace assisting me to lead a holy life, that I may experience this joy. I do most earnestly long to behold my Saviour; the Saviour who died, that I and all mankind might live for ever. But, O Lord, I must wait till my change

cometh, and then, I trust, I shall be amongst the blessed multitude who will meet thee in the air, and stand with holy confidence before thy judgment-seat, waiting to receive thy gracious summons to enter into the kingdom prepared for them from the foundation of the world. O divine Lord, what will be my transport when I behold thy presence in righteousness! when through thy precious blood-shedding I rise from the dead, cleansed from the defilement of sin, and entering on a happy and an everlasting existence! praised and adored be thy glorious name for these most comfortable hopes! O may they cheer me while I pass through this vale of tears and misery, and enable me to overcome the sorrows, and submit to the vexations and mortifications of this mortal state. Blessed Lord, thou knowest that I love thee; continue to me, I beseech thee, the blessing promised to thy disciples. O grant me a continuance of that peace which passeth all understanding! May the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, be with me and mine to all eternity! — — — — — — — —

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O Lord, I ask not for riches, I know too well the deceitfulness of them; I ask not for pleasures such as this world can give, for they have no charms for me; let me but view thy glorious and beautiful works, and live by thy commandments, enjoying thy heavenly favour, and let the triflers of the world share all its trifles among them. O

Lord, I cannot but desire to possess thy peace; and, thanks to thy goodness, often is this most inestimable blessing granted to me.

March 12 — — — — — — —

Gracious and merciful God, I love and honour thee with the best affections of my heart; I would not willingly offend thee myself, and I grieve when I see thy holy commandments violated by others. O how grievous it is to see thy holy temples forsaken by many, thy sabbaths broken, human creatures in a state of probation, thinking only of worldly pleasures and advantages, forgetful of thee, and of their latter end! O most gracious God, I fear that these things will bring thy judgments upon this guilty land. But there are still many faithful left. May it be thy good pleasure to save it for their sakes! O Lord, I beseech thee, spare this nation, and turn away thy fierce anger from us; continue, O God of hosts, to go forth with our fleets and armies, and defeat the wicked designs of our enemies. — — — — —

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This world is not my abiding place; I will not take up my rest here; I am a citizen of a better, even an heavenly, country. I will not mind the storms and tempests, the evil accidents which I may meet with in this short pilgrimage to the everlasting regions, the heavenly Jerusalem, where all is joy, and peace, and tranquillity for evermore! praised be thy holy name, O Lord, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory, of which thou

hast graciously made me a partaker, through the merits of Christ Jesus, my Saviour, to whom with thee and the Holy Spirit, be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen!

March 16. This day one of our causes in the Court of Chancery comes to a hearing. In respect to our worldly affairs, it is an important crisis, yet my mind is at present calm and serene, and I humbly trust it will continue so; my greatest care is, lest I, or any of my family, should be deficient in our duty to God on this trying occasion.

O Lord, I am not covetous of riches, thanks to thy fatherly goodness, thou hast shewn me in various ways the deceitfulness of them, and how dangerous they are to the possessor, and I trust thou hast done the same for my dear children. I beseech thee, most gracious Father, to give us thy heavenly grace, that if it should be thy good pleasure to encrease our possessions, we may use them to thy glory and the good of our fellow-creatures; or if it should be thy will to disappoint us, we may resign ourselves to thy holy will with true Christian patience and resignation.

March 17. Our cause had a hearing yesterday, and I have reason to hope that all the steps to be taken in consequence of it are favourable for us; but the prospect of final determination is still a distant one! — — — — — — —

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I have read part of Bishop Beveridge's resolutions, and I agree with him in resolving to make

it my chief business here on earth to prepare for my eternal state, and to walk circumspectly in those blessed paths of faith and obedience which God himself has graciously pointed out as leading to his heavenly kingdom. I have long since chosen the land of Canaan, the kingdom of Christ, as the lot of my inheritance, the only seat of bliss and glory for my soul to rest and dwell in to all eternity. O most gracious God, who that has read and reflected upon thy glories revealed in thy written word, can make any other choice? Can any one deliberately prefer earth to heaven? Can any one deliberately refuse everlasting life and happiness for the sake of the transitory pleasures of this mortal state? I am truly thankful to thy divine goodness that thou hast formed me what I am, a mortal being, and placed me where I am, in this earth which is so wisely adapted to the wants of such creatures as mankind, and through which they must pass as probationers for eternal happiness. But I will not cling to this earth; I will not regard it as my abiding place. No, most holy, most glorious God, I will strive by using the means of grace which thou hast graciously afforded to me and my fellow-mortals, to secure the inheritance thy goodness has provided for me in a better world. I know that without holiness I must never enter that blest place; and I feel that I am a sinner unworthy from my manifold offences to gain admittance there, but my Redeemer has made atonement for my sins, and thou, O God,

hast promised to pardon all who shall truly repent, and for his sake to receive them to thyself as dear children.

O most merciful Father, I do most heartily grieve to see thy sabbaths neglected, and all thy commandments broken, by multitudes of foolish sinful men who consider not the wickedness of their ways. O, if all the nation were like them, thy justice would certainly cut it off, but I humbly trust that there are still many thousands in it who have not departed from the truth. May it be thy good pleasure to spare thy people good Lord. O most merciful Father, as a nation we have lately received signal mercies from thy hands; thou hast prospered our arms by sea, and dispersed the ships of the enemy; but we have many internal distresses. May it be thy good pleasure to preserve our king; defend him from all his enemies, foreign and domestic. Inspire our senators with wisdom from above. O merciful God, preserve us from the impious foes who tread down thy sanctuary wherever their arms are successful, and grant us in thy good time a lasting peace!

April 2. It was my intention to employ this whole afternoon in my usual meditations, with my pen in my hand, to write down the reflections which arose in my mind, but I had been reading before dinner some of Bishop Beveridge's Resolutions, and they had laid such hold of my attention, that I could not help going on with them. I have, I hope, benefited by the change of pur-

pose, for the thoughts of so exalted a mind are suited to improve weaker Christians, and I felt my heart burning with desire to follow his steps, and most cordially adopting his pious resolutions for the government of his thoughts, words, and actions, in respect to the different relations and circumstances of human life. May I be enabled to retain these good impressions.

April 9. Last night I experienced a great mercy which I desire to record, that I may remember it to my life's end: owing to my own carelessness, I fell down stairs, and it was wonderful that I did not do myself some great injury, but it pleased God to preserve me, and I have only a few slight bruises.

O God of all grace and goodness, accept my humble and hearty thanksgivings for thy mercy and loving-kindness, and keep both me and mine now and ever under the protection of thy good Providence. Lord, I will strive to enter in at the straight gate; I will keep the narrow way that leadeth unto life. O Lord, I pray and beseech thee to assist me in keeping these and all other good resolutions! Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

Adorable Saviour, on this day which is kept in commemoration of thy resurrection from the dead, vouchsafe to accept the humble tribute of my gratitude and love. O divine Lord, I as firmly believe that thou didst rise from the dead, as if I had actually seen thee with my eyes: I also believe,

that as surely as thou hast raised thy own body, so surely wilt thou raise all mankind, and me amongst the rest. O may I through faith in thee rise to glory and immortality!

O eternal and ever-living God, Almighty Governor of the universe, under an awful sense of thy power, majesty, and goodness, I presume as one of the thousands which compose this nation, to offer thee thanksgivings and praise for thy great goodness, in putting a speedy end to our danger and distress, occasioned by civil dissention. O Lord, not to the wisdom of our governors, not to the force of our arms; but to thee be all the glory! It is thou who hast checked the bold career of rebellion; thou who hast said "hitherto shalt thou go and no further;" thou who hast restrained the remainder of wrath; and praised be thy mercy and goodness, for these seasonable deliverances! O that we may know and feel from the greatest to the least of us, how good and gracious the Lord is; that we may from a principle of gratitude devote ourselves to his service; that we may for our sakes, and for the sake of the nation, practise each in our several stations, that righteousness which exalteth a nation! that we may so believe and live that God may dwell among us, and be our God for ever, world without end!

O divine Saviour, my Lord and my God, I honour thee even as I honour the Father. I desire to testify to all the world that I am thy disciple. I desire to build my house upon the Rock of ages!

O that it may stand against all winds and floods which fall upon it. Blessed Lord, it is my wish and most fervent desire to complete the work I have begun for the instruction of the children of the poor; but many hindrances arise; my infirmities are great, and frequent impediments occur. O that it may please thee by thy Holy Spirit to direct, guide, and strengthen me; leave me not to my own weak reason, not for a moment, lest I fall into sin!

O how could I endure the trials, the disappointments, the vexations, the sorrows of this life, if I had not an eternity of bliss to look forward to? and yet this is a goodly world in itself: how beautifully has the beneficent Creator adorned it! in what abundance does it produce all that is pleasant to the eye, and good for food! but mankind have corrupted themselves and defiled their habitation; they have rendered the earth one scene of rapine, injustice, and wickedness: yet amidst all this a faithful remnant remains; the church of God is still to be found on earth; God still vouchsafes to dwell with men. O if God should withdraw his blessing, what would become of this world! how wonderful it is to think of the condescension of the Most Highest—"*a self-existent Deity*"—what a thought is this! too great for human faculties to dwell on; yet such must the great Creator be! a first Cause there must have been, or how could any thing have come into existence. O if I should one day inhabit the regions of eternity, I

shall, I trust, be able to comprehend more than earthly faculties can reach, of this wonderful Being; and I shall converse on his perfections with my fellow angels; I shall learn their songs of praise; I shall accompany these blessed spirits in their acts of devotion: O what will then be my transports! my extacies! and will not my dear husband and children also unite with us? O yes, they all, I trust, will be admitted into the same blessed society; and there we shall again find our dearest parents: when I think of heaven I cannot but long for the fruition; but I must wait my appointed time. O that I may pass the remainder of my days on earth so as to please my God; that my blessed Redeemer may own me for his disciple. O that I and all my dear relations may have in our own foreheads the mark of the Lamb!

On Thursday last, I enjoyed a pleasure of the most exalted kind: the sight of the charity children collected in St. Paul's Cathedral; what a congregation was there! high and low, rich and poor, forming one great assembly, and with united voices giving glory to the great Creator! if some went without religion in their hearts, from motives of curiosity only, numbers must have gone with better views; to me it appeared a heavenly scene, and I enjoyed extatic and sublime delight, though from the great infirmity of my nature, my mind was frequently disturbed from that intense devotion which the solemnity demanded; and this, I

fear, will be the case with me as long as I continue in this tabernacle of clay! — — — —

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I will not faint or grow weary in my pilgrimage through the wilderness of this world, while I am suffered to drink of the waters of life freely. All I am anxious for is leisure and quietness sufficient to pursue my labours. I wish to instruct the rising generation of rich as well as poor; I want to write something upon the proper method of implanting the truths of Christianity from the dawn of reason; I want to write something upon the bettering the condition of the poor; in short I have formed plans I fear beyond my power to execute; plans that will attach me to this life: but I will endeavour to moderate my desires even in those things which I trust are such as my heavenly Father will approve: what I wish for is, to be an humble instrument of his good Providence; if he sees fit to take me out of this world, I humbly trust he will graciously employ me in a better.

July 23. Never had I such clear and comprehensive ideas of an all-governing Providence as I have at present; every page of Sacred History instructs me in this great truth, that all events, even those which appear the most trivial, are under the direction of the great Governor of the universe; that mankind in their several stations are the instruments of his Providence; that he employs them according to the uses they are fit for; the well-

disposed are subservient to the purposes of his mercy and goodness towards their fellow-creatures; the wicked to the purposes of his anger, and not unfrequently as unwilling instruments of good towards his faithful people. I am very certain that nothing happens by chance; I therefore ought to cast off the burden of care which I am too apt to encrease. I certainly ought at all times, and on all occasions, to look up with humble confidence to my heavenly Father, not doubting but that he will most certainly help me in time of need, and order all things for my ultimate good. O Lord, with gratitude too great for utterance, I acknowledge that thou hast hitherto turned every apparent misfortune or calamity into a blessing, a spiritual blessing. I thankfully acknowledge that thou hast sanctified all my sorrows, and taught me to know the benefit of afflictions. O most gracious God, I know that all thy chastisements hitherto have been tender mercies; and with my whole heart I thank thee for having inflicted them. May I ever regard the trials thou mayest yet see fit to allot me in the same light; but, alas! whilst I am suffering under thy rod, I am too apt to forget thy former loving-kindnesses. O most gracious Father, how kindly dost thou wean me from the world, and loosen my affections for its pomps and vanities! nothing in this transitory scene has any attractions for me but the beauties of thy wonderful works in the visible creation, and the so-

ciety of good people. Riches and grandeur have no charms for me; all I desire for myself and my family are those simple and innocent enjoyments which are suited to those who are pilgrims upon earth, and travelling towards the heavenly Jerusalem. O most gracious Father, to thy most merciful and righteous disposal I humbly commend all my affairs, spiritual and temporal, beseeching thee to continue to be to me and mine as thou hast hitherto been, a tower of defence against the fear of our enemies. Be pleased, O God, to put a speedy end to these contentions in which we are at present engaged: nevertheless, not as we will, but as thou wilt! But, O most gracious Father, I most earnestly and fervently ask, what thou hast promised to bestow on all that ask it through Jesus Christ, the help of thy Holy Spirit. O Lord, for this I would cry day and night unto thee; but thy merciful ear is ever open, and thou wilt at all times grant this petition. I ask it, O most gracious Father, in faith; I ask it for thy dear Son's sake; and not for myself only, but for every one of my dear children of the first and second generation, and those also with whom some of my dear children are united in the bands of wedlock. O Lord, vouchsafe to grant to every one of us the spirit to think those things that be rightful, and by thy merciful guidance to perform the same through Jesus Christ our Lord.

July. Yesterday my cause came to a hearing

in the Court of Chancery, and a favourable decree was given in respect to my claims; the others are referred to a future decision.

O eternal and ever-blessed Lord God, my heavenly Father, with a thankful heart I acknowledge thy goodness to me in maintaining my right and my cause, and I praise thy holy name for this and every other blessing thou art pleased to grant me. O gracious God, I am unworthy of the least of all thy favours; thou bestowest blessings when I deserve punishment; I receive all as the gift of thy bounty; and I most humbly beseech thee to enable me to use all thy good gifts, whether spiritual or temporal, to thy honour and glory, the benefit of my fellow-creatures, and the good of my own soul. O be pleased to teach me so to use the things of this world, that I may in the world to come enjoy true riches. Heavenly treasures! O that I may be found among the children of light, when my Lord calls upon me to give an account of my stewardship! O that I may be found to have been wise in my generation, not as a child of this world, but as one of the children of light!

Most gracious Father, I presume to entreat thee to receive my humble supplications in behalf of my dear son, who is now afflicted with sickness. May it be thy blessed will to restore him. O Lord, I pray thee, of thy goodness to spare me the sorrow of losing this dear child, who has already cost me so many anxious moments! nevertheless, not my will, but thine be done. I know

that all thy dispensations are just and equitable; and who is able to direct thy goings. Gracious Father, with all humility, and with entire confidence in thine infinite goodness, I commit myself and all who are near and dear to me, to thy divine protection, trusting in thy mercy and goodness through Jesus Christ, thy Son, our blessed and adorable Redeemer.

O divine Saviour, blessed Jesus, my Lord and my God, I have been asking for myself great things, but I have asked them in thy name, for what am I without thee? alas, a miserable sinner! O divine Lord, I now most humbly beseech thee to present my petitions to the throne of grace, with thy all-powerful intercession. O vouchsafe to own me as thy disciple, and grant me that peace which thou didst bequeath to thy disciples as thy legacy. Lord, I hunger and thirst after righteousness; may I be filled! Lord, I long for the water of life; vouchsafe to let me drink from the stream. I desire the bread which came down from heaven, for that I will labour, and not for the meat that perisheth. O divine Lord, I will strive to follow thy blessed precepts; I will take no thought for the morrow, (thy grace assisting me) but will confine my solicitude to the pressure of the moment. I will seek thy kingdom and the righteousness thereof; not doubting but that all things needful will by the bounty of Providence be added unto me. May it ever be my delight to do the will of my Father who is in heaven!

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I am more and more sensible of a particular Providence the longer I live in the world. I have very lately experienced the truth of it in my own family concerns. I have seen it evidently in the extraordinary turn of public affairs. O how lamentable it is, that people will willingly shut their eyes against conviction; that they will ascribe the events which have lately taken place, and by which the nation is happily delivered from impending judgments to any cause, rather than the true one! why should any mortal man be averse to glorify his Maker! the universal Lord, the universal Governor? God alone knows; and may he vouchsafe to open their eyes, that they may discern his power and goodness! for my part my heart overflows with thankfulness, and O that I may ever retain a grateful sense of God's unbounded love!

O Lord, I hope I shall never set my heart on riches, shouldst thou ever see fit to allot them to me: but who can know what they would do in different situations? those things are known, O God, to thee alone; and thou dost order all things for the best, with unerring wisdom and perfect goodness. O most merciful and gracious Father, firmly believing that thou dost so, I humbly commit myself and all my dear family into thy hands, beseeching thee to direct all our concerns, temporal and eternal, to one great end, the attainment of our everlasting happiness in the world to come. Be pleased to guide us in the way which to thee

seemeth good, to lead us to heaven, and whether it may be strewed with thorns or with flowers, enable us to walk stedfast and straight in it, neither turning to the right hand or the left. O most gracious Father, with a heavenly inheritance constantly in view, make us indifferent to the trifles of this life: whilst we have hopes of dwelling hereafter with angels in heaven, let us not murmur at the inconveniencies of our mortal state. Help us to lay aside every weight, and the sin that doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us. O most gracious Father, I love thy commandments above all earthly treasure; thy word is dearer to my soul than thousands of gold and silver. — — —

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Aug. 27. I am ambitious of the esteem of good people, and wish to leave a good reputation behind me: but I would fairly gain it; I never will impose upon the world by affecting to be in any respect what I am not; no, this I dare not do, for I know the fate that awaits the hypocrite; besides, I can truly say, that I love truth and sincerity.

I have this week had a painful task to perform: my friend Mrs. —— has lost her husband by an instantaneous stroke of Providence, as I lost mine; and I had the melancholy office of breaking the afflicting news to her. This event has recalled to my recollection the greatest trial of my life; but it has also recalled the greatest mercies, at least those which I most sensibly felt of any that were

ever bestowed upon me; and by the grace of God assisting my weak endeavours, I have been enabled to comfort my poor friend. I feel my mind fatigued with the agitation and the exertion I have had occasion to make. — — — — —

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Aug. 27. This is the birth-day of my dear ———; the day which first made me a parent. O most merciful God, vouchsafe to hear my humble supplications in behalf of my dear child on this her natal day. Be pleased to give her an increase of grace; incline her heart to all goodness; cleanse it from whatever is displeasing to thee, and make her a bright example of all that is praiseworthy in a woman professing Christianity! O spare her life, if it be thy good pleasure, that she may train her infant race in the ways of righteousness: and O be graciously pleased, most merciful God, to give to these dear children thy heavenly grace, to incline their minds to goodness, that they may grow in wisdom as they grow in stature. O most gracious God, I bless and praise thy goodness that I am able to look upon all my children with humble hope of their being thine also. Be thou pleased to correct in every one of them whatever thou seest to be amiss, and lead them in the way of everlasting life. O Lord God Almighty, continue to them and to me thy loving-kindness, thy tender compassion, thy all-powerful protection, thy hea-

venly benediction. To thee I humbly commend all my concerns, spiritual and temporal. Do with me and mine what seemeth good unto thee, and vouchsafe to give us contented minds.

Sept. 10. One hour of the time I usually dedicate to devout meditation is passed away; and now, without appearing singular, I can spend but a little time in retirement.

While absent from home I shall lead but an idle life, but I submit to this loss of time, with the hope of recruiting my health and strength for greater exertions than I have lately been capable of; and I hope to profit by the example of the worthy friends with whom I am now staying. —

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Sept. 17. Again have the hours of meditation been occupied without an opportunity of retiring, but I trust they have not been uselessly employed. I leave now a pious family, collected together to receive instructions from the worthy head of it; a true and upright pastor of the flock, committed to his care by his divine Master, the great Shepherd of Israel. But I leave them only that I may have leisure to recollect the sins and follies of the past week, and to confess them more particularly than I have done with the congregation. — —

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Oct. 4. Yesterday evening I returned home in safety with my two dear children, and found those I had left behind me, when I set out on my

late excursion, in health and cheerfulness. I shall now, if it please God to bless me with health and strength, renew my labours, and set my mind to encounter the cares which I must expect to meet with. — — — — — — — — —

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Oct. 8. I sit down with a desire to meditate, but whether I shall be able to do it, God only knows, for I have been greatly indisposed ever since yesterday evening, and though I feel relieved in a great measure from the pains I last night suffered, I am still far from well. — — — —

O most gracious Father, it is a mortifying disappointment to me, to be incapable of pursuing my labours for the instruction of the poor, yet far be it from me to repine; if it is for my everlasting good, or if I am really able to benefit the world, thou wilt, I doubt not, graciously restore me. I resign all to thee. But encouraged by thy goodness, I presume to pray, with submission to thy good pleasure, that thou wouldst bless the means I am making use of for my recovery; that thou wouldst spare me a little, that I may recover my strength before I go hence, and be no more seen. O take me not away in the midst of my age; forsake me not, O God, when my strength faileth me. O may every day thou shalt see fit to add to my life be spent in thy service, and may my death, whenever it shall happen, be the death of the righteous.

During the sleepless hours of the last painful night, I thought it not unlikely that my dissolution was approaching; and such may still be the event of the complaint which now afflicts me. Till the medicines take the desired effect, I cannot think myself safe. God only knows, and may his will be submitted to without a murmur, however contrary to my own will. Ought I to dread the stroke of death, which, though it will separate me from what I hold dear upon earth, will, as I humbly trust, remove me to heaven, and introduce me to that blessed society which it is my ultimate wish to join, and what is infinitely more desirable, bring me into the presence of my God and Saviour?—I will not dread it;—yet I am tempted to cling to the present life, from the idea that I can be further useful in my generation. God knows best. This is a life of continual pains, cares, and anxieties, and dreadful would it be, but for the prospect of eternity. I would fain raise my soul to God in fervent adoration. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Oct. 15. The illness which was begun last Sunday increased afterwards, and on Wednesday night I had a most violent and painful attack. I must not employ myself too much with my pen at this time, lest it occasion a return of those pains I have lately felt.

O most gracious, most merciful Father, with a heart truly sensible of thy goodness, I offer up unto thee my grateful thanksgivings for thy late

mercies vouchsafed unto me. O Lord, thou hast preserved me from death, and, as I humbly trust, removed it at a distance from me. Thou alone knowest. O if it be thy good pleasure to cut short the remnant of my days, vouchsafe, in thy mercy and goodness, to support me under the agonies of death, and to receive me into thy heavenly kingdom, for the sake of my blessed Redeemer, Jesus Christ, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

Oct. 22. Another Sabbath is come, and I am kept by indisposition from going to church and the schools. I hope my illness is upon the decline, but on Wednesday last I again suffered great pain the whole day, and to-day I have been far from easy. I cannot but wish it would please the Almighty to restore me to health, that I might again endeavour to be useful, but I resolve, his grace assisting me, to bear my sickness patiently, however long it may continue, and even to resign myself to death, if such should be the will of God.

O most gracious God, I, thy humble servant, fully sensible of my own unworthiness, most humbly beseech thy fatherly goodness to have compassion upon me, and to forgive my manifold sins and offences for Jesus Christ's sake. O Lord, I pray thee of thy goodness to restore me to health, if such be thy good pleasure; if not, O vouchsafe to reconcile me to the loss of life, and to a separation from all those for whose sake I wish to live. O

Lord, heavenly Father, thy will, not mine, be done.

O Lord, I pray and beseech thee of thy goodness to grant me, during my abode in this world, all things needful for my body and my soul, and a heart to employ all thy good gifts agreeably to thy holy will and commandments. Continue, I beseech thee, to all my dear children thy heavenly benediction, and keep them by thy grace in the way of everlasting life. O let not Satan prevail against any of those whom I have presented to my divine Saviour in holy baptism.

Oct. 29. A third Sunday have I stayed from church and the schools, on account of indisposition; but thanks to Almighty God, my health is much mended, and I trust my recovery will soon be complete. — — — — — — —

O eternal and ever blessed Lord God Almighty, the high and mighty One that inhabiteth eternity, the Creator, the Governor, and the Judge of all men, the most excellent of Beings, I thine unworthy servant, deeply penetrated with a sense of thy unspeakable goodness, do render Thee most humble and grateful thanks for all thy mercies vouchsafed to me, but particularly for those thou hast lately granted me. I bless and praise thy name for the sufferings thou hast lately inflicted upon me for my soul's good. Yes, O gracious God, I see and feel thy mercy and loving kindness in the late dispensation of thy Providence to me. Thou hast chastened and cor-

rected me, but thou hast not given me over unto death. Thou hast graciously hearkened, as I humbly trust, to the voice of my supplication, and I shall not die, but live to praise and glorify thy great name, and do my appointed work. O gracious and merciful Father, enable me, I beseech thee, by thy grace to persevere in the good resolutions which thy chastisements have instructed me to make.

Nov. 5. Again am I detained from attending public worship, not by ill health, but by the badness of the weather, which makes me fearful of catching cold, but next Sunday I hope to go to church, and partake of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. I have not been entirely free from the complaint in my stomach till to-day, but I have not yet felt any pain, and (I judge from symptoms) that the cause is in a great measure removed. How thankful ought I to be to God for his undeserved mercy and goodness! To-morrow I hope to renew my labours, and may the Holy Spirit guide and direct me.

O most gracious Father, since thou hast been pleased to heal my body, vouchsafe to heal my soul also; purify it from all defilement by the sanctification of thy Holy Spirit. O Lord God, my Saviour and Redeemer, with renewed health I renew my resolutions to serve thee, as thy disciple, with encreased zeal. O be pleased to strengthen me, that I may fulfil these resolutions, by striving to

do the will of my heavenly Father, according to thy divine precepts and blessed example. Vouchsafe to guide and lead me, and keep me back from all that is contrary to my Christian profession. Let not the world lay hold of my heart in any way; preserve me from the temptations of Satan, and help my infirmities. O let me ever keep in view the high prize of my calling, nor suffer any thing to draw my mind from it. Let me constantly remember that I am a stranger and pilgrim upon earth, as all my fathers were; that here I have no abiding city, but seek one to come, where thou, O divine and beloved Saviour, reignest in glory, and from which thou wilt descend at the end of the world, bringing all thy holy angels with thee, to gather together thine elect from the four quarters of the earth. O that I may be found among the blessed number that shall be received by thee, and translated into this glorious kingdom.

Nov. 12. After an absence of a month, I am once more going to join the congregation to which I belong, and to receive the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. I most earnestly desire to go to this holy feast with the true wedding garment, but I am conscious of many sins, and much infirmity.

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I went to church as I intended, and a great pleasure it was to me to be once more in the house of God.

Last Monday I resumed my pen as I purposed, and wrote a little, but it fatigued me greatly, and I was unable to pursue the employment.

Dec. 14. I am this day going to London, in order to make a solemn affidavit, that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the bonds I am claiming under were never paid. This I can do with a safe conscience, but I wish to go with a heart so properly disposed in respect to this business, that when I take a solemn oath, God may regard it, and approve the act. — — — — —

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O most great and glorious God, the Creator and Governor of all things, I adore thy divine Majesty, and acknowledge that thou art Lord of all things, and that thy Providence governs all events. What infinite condescension it is in such a Being, to concern himself even in the trifling affairs of sinful men! Lord, I know and confess that I am not worthy of the least of thy mercies; but encouraged by thy gracious promises, I have presumed to commit my cause to thee, and thou hast hitherto appeared to guide and to direct the steps of those who are the instruments of thy good Providence in this matter. This day am I to make a solemn appeal to thee for the truth of my dealings. O vouchsafe to hear me from heaven, thy dwelling-place, and bless and direct me. Lord, I would not dare to utter falsehood before thee; I pray and beseech thee of thy goodness to grant

me thy grace, that I may in all things obey thy blessed will; and, O most merciful God, I earnestly beseech thee to dispose my heart, to receive as becomes thy creature, whatever thy Providence in this matter shall decree me. Lord, it is not on the counsels of men that I depend; my trust is in thee alone. May thy blessed will be done by me and mine on earth, and hereafter in heaven to endless ages.

Dec. 31. I am now come to the conclusion of another year, and will close it with thankful acknowledgment of the great and manifold mercies and favours, which have been bestowed upon me by the Giver of all goodness. It has been, in many respects, a year of great cares and difficulties, but the cares have in general been removed, and the difficulties overcome, through the merciful goodness of an over-ruling Providence. I have at this time an accumulation of similar cares and difficulties, but I think of former mercies, and put my trust in God, and my soul is at peace.

The most signal personal mercies I recollect have been the preservation of my life in my late illness; my escaping almost unhurt when I fell down stairs; and the prospect of a speedy and favourable termination to my law-suit. I have received numberless mercies besides, which have left a deep impression of gratitude upon my mind. I have also cause to be thankful for innumerable mercies to the various branches of my family, for

these mercies have reflected on me through that strong affection for my dear children, which will ever make me a partaker of their joys and sorrows.

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O Lord, I beseech thee to accept from thy faithful, though weak servant, the tribute of sincere and humble thanksgiving, for all thy known and unknown favours, mercies, blessings, and deliverances, which thou hast abundantly bestowed upon me, and my dear family, in the course of the last year. Praise the Lord, O my soul, and let all that is within me bless his holy name. Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his mercies. O who can sufficiently declare the goodness of the Lord? and what am I, that the Lord should so regard me?

Divine and adorable Saviour, to thee am I indebted for every thing; without thy mediation, I could not hope for pardon and peace, for life and felicity, in the regions of bliss. To thee, with the Father and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

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Another portion of that time which serves to measure human life is now come to a period. Fifty-seven years have I passed upon earth, and almost thirty of them did I pass in matrimonial union with the best and tenderest of husbands,

Then it pleased God to separate us; but I look forward to a world in which we shall, I hope, again meet, and in which our lives will not be measured by days, weeks, months, and years, but when thousands and thousands of ages have been passed in uninterrupted felicity, we may still expect an endless succession. O what a vast idea is that of eternity—too big for human comprehension!

THE END.

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